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STUDIES IN THE APOCALYPSE

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# STUDIES IN THE APOCALYPSE

BEING LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BY

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## PREFACE

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THE University of London instituted last year two short courses of "Lectures in Advanced Theology," to be given by a foreign and a home scholar respectively.

The present writer was chosen to be the first of the home scholars.

The lectures, which were four in all, and were delivered in May this year, have been slightly expanded, and, with a view to the better arrangement of the material, been divided into five chapters. Their original form as lectures has, notwithstanding some disadvantages, been retained.

The first two chapters make no claim to originality. They are simply a very short history of the interpretation of the Apocalypse from the earliest times.

An attempt is made by the omission of details to show so far as possible the real advances in interpretation that were made in

the growing centuries. Since, however, greater contributions have in this respect been made within the last forty years than in all past exegesis, larger space has of necessity been devoted to this period.

Also, for the convenience of the reader, an Appendix has been added, in which the critical analyses of the chief scholars of the Apocalypse are given.

To furnish such details in lectures would have been impossible.

The real contribution of the present work, so far as it is a contribution, is to be found in the last three chapters. In these the author has set forth some of the conclusions which he has arrived at in the course of a prolonged study of the Apocalypse and the literature to which it belongs. That these conclusions are in the main valid he is fully convinced, though in detail they may require occasionally drastic revision. Apart from these he holds that much of the Apocalypse must remain a sealed book.

R. H. CHARLES.

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# STUDIES IN THE APOCALYPSE.



## CHAPTER I.

### HISTORY OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE APOCALYPSE.

BEFORE we enter on a detailed study of the various methods of interpretation that have been applied to the Apocalypse since the earliest times to the present, I must preface our investigations with a few introductory remarks.

First of all, while recognising the close affinities with Jewish Apocalyptic in general, I must point out one important characteristic that differentiates Christian Apocalyptic literature of the first century of the Christian era from Jewish Apocalyptic.

In the second place, I shall put forward some general and for the most part obvious considerations, which will serve in some measure to provide a preliminary canon of criticism, by the use of which we shall be able to

recognise amongst the many conflicting and contradictory methods, those methods which were more or less justifiable from the outset.

Now as regards the first point, while we must unreservedly acknowledge that the New Testament Apocalypse<sup>1</sup> cannot be understood apart from Jewish Apocalyptic, we must also recognise the fact that while Jewish Apocalyptic was pseudepigraphic from 350 or 300 B.C. down to mediæval times, Christian Apocalyptic in the first century threw off the cloak of pseudonymity and the Christian seer came forward in his own person. For the full explanation of this change, I must refer the students of this literature to the second edition of my *Eschatology* (pp. 173–206). I may here, however, summarise in a few words the conclusions arrived at there. From the times of Ezra onwards the Law made steady progress towards a position of supremacy in Judaism, till at the close of the third century B.C., or early in the second, it came to be regarded, not as the highest expression of the religious consciousness of a particular age, but as the full and final utterance of the mind of God—adequate, infallible, and valid for all eternity.

<sup>1</sup> Sometimes the Apocalypse is called the New Testament Apocalypse in the following pages by way of contrast to Jewish Apocalyptic.



When the Law thus came to be regarded as all-sufficient for time and eternity, alike as an intellectual creed, a liturgical system, and a practical guide in ethics and religion, there was practically no room left for new light or interpretation or for any further disclosure of God's will—in short, there was no room for the true prophet, but only for the moralist, the casuist, and the preacher. Henceforth in Judaism, when a man felt himself charged with a real message from God to his day and generation, he was compelled, if he wished his message to be received, to resort to pseudonymity, and to issue the Divine commands with which he was entrusted under the name of some ancient worthy in Israel.

But with the advent of Christianity all this was changed. The Law was dethroned from the position of supremacy which it had usurped, and reduced to its rightful status as a school-master to bring men to Christ, while prophecy was restored to the first place, and prophet and seer were once more enabled to fling aside for the time the guise of pseudonymity and come forward in their own persons to make known the counsel of God.

Hence there is no *a priori* ground for regarding Revelation as a pseudepigraph. It is the work of the Christian seer or prophet John.

Our next task is to furnish ourselves with a provisional canon of criticism by means of which we shall be able to recognise the right method or methods of interpretation as they arise in this historical inquiry.

The New Testament Apocalypse cannot be understood apart from Jewish Apocalyptic literature. Like other books of this literature, and, indeed, like most of the prophetic literature in earlier times, it appeared at a time when fear and despair were at their height. Whatever use such books made of past events, their main lesson was addressed to their own age. Now the date of the New Testament Apocalypse belongs unquestionably to the latter half, or rather to the close of the first century A.D.

The writer, therefore, is addressing his contemporaries towards the close of the first century. We have now to inquire: Do the visions of the writer relate to contemporary events and to future events as arising out of these? that is, are we to interpret the book according to the Contemporary - Historical Method? Or are we to explain the book as referring wholly to the future, to definite events in the coming centuries and millenniums that is, are we to interpret the book wholly and strictly by the Eschatological

Method? Now I think we can have no hesitation in accepting provisionally the former method in reference to the chief part of the book. The analogy of the chief Jewish Apocalypse is in favour of such a decision. Moreover, the words of the writer himself support it; for in i. 1, xxii. 6, he states that the revelation relates to "the things which must shortly come to pass" (*ἃ δεῖ γενέσθαι ἐν τάχει*), and again in i. 3, xxii. 10, he declares that "the time is at hand" (*ὁ καιρὸς ἐγγύς*).

The writer, too, is no ancient worthy, but a Christian prophet addressing his contemporaries. But it is well to observe that, even according to the Contemporary-Historical Method, there remains a certain prophetic or eschatological element in the book, which arises out of and yet is inexplicable from the events of the present. The writer was no mere mechanical apocalypticist. He claimed to be and wrote as a prophet, though he was hampered in some measure by a body of apocalyptic tradition, which possessed in his eyes an undoubted sanctity, but which required to be interpreted afresh.

We shall therefore provisionally accept the Contemporary-Historical Method, and in a minor degree the Eschatological, as the methods used naturally and unconsciously by the readers of the book when it was first published. Once more,

the book, like other apocalypses, is to be interpreted with reference to concrete events, and not to be treated as an allegory,<sup>1</sup> or a spiritual or symbolical representation of the world's history. As in Daniel, Enoch, 2 Baruch and 4 Ezra, definite kingdoms and persons are referred to, or definite traditional expectations respecting eschatological events or persons, so also in the New Testament Apocalypse. Thus the Millennium in chap. xx. is a definite period introduced by the first resurrection. There were analogous expectations in contemporary and earlier Judaism. In fact, this temporary kingdom is just as concrete an expectation as the Messianic kingdom of which it is a one-sided development. In like manner a knowledge of Jewish Apocalyptic forbids us to spiritualise or weaken into a mere symbol the dreaded figure of the Antichrist. The Antichrist was identified at different periods with different historical personalities — in Daniel with Antiochus Epiphanes, in the Ascension of Isaiah and the Sibyllines with Nero. That a like identification is to be found in the Apocalypse we shall see later. On these and like grounds, therefore, we shall look askance on any method which proposes to remove the

<sup>1</sup> Certain portions are of the allegorical type.



references to or expectations of definite events from the book and to reduce it to a merely allegorical description of the strife of good and evil.

But Jewish Apocalypses call for other methods in addition to the Contemporary-Historical and Eschatological with a view to their fuller interpretation. These are the Philological, the Literary-Critical, the Traditional-Historical and the Religious-Historical. In the sequel we shall find that the difficulties of the New Testament Apocalypse cannot be resolved, unless by the application of these supplementary methods. We are, however, anticipating, and it will be best to adjourn the consideration of these latter methods till we deal with the actual periods when they were first applied to the interpretation of the Apocalypse.

Let us now address ourselves to the subject immediately before us, and describe under definite headings the methods of the successive schools of interpretation.

§ 1. *First, then, we have the Eschatological Method and traces of the Contemporary-Historical, with the beginnings of a Spiritualising Method and the rise of the Recapitulation Theory.*

Unhappily no work survives giving us the view of the earliest readers of the Apocalypse.

Quite sixty years pass before we find any references to it, and over a hundred before any writer deals at length with its expectations. Thus, since the real historical horizon of the book was lost, and its historical allusions had become unintelligible for the most part, the use of the Contemporary-Historical, unless in isolated passages, had become practically impossible. On the other hand, the true interpretation of the eschatological sections, relating as they do not to the present but to the coming ages, was still preserved in tradition, as we shall presently see.

The earliest expounders of the Apocalypse whose works have come down to us are Justin Martyr (*ob.* 163), Irenæus (*ob.* 202), Hippolytus, and Victorinus. In these writers we find, as we should *a priori* expect, fragmentary survivals of true methods of interpretation. Thus Justin, who comments on the Apocalypse in only a single passage (*Dial. cum Tryph.* § 81), adduces it in justification of Chiliasm, or the doctrine of the Millennium, the literal reign of Christ on earth for 1000 years. Justin declares that this is the view of all orthodox Christians (*ὀρθογνώμονες . . . Χριστιανοί*, § 80). The same view is held by Tertullian (*Adv. Marc.* iii. 24), as it had been earlier by Cerinthus and Papias. The first writer who

treats more fully of the Apocalypse is Irenæus (*Adv. Hær.* iv. and v.). A survey of the passages in his works dealing with the Apocalypse shows that the historical relations of the Apocalypse to its time had almost wholly passed from remembrance. His interpretation is a mixture of the literal and allegorical methods. Thus he allegorises the number 666, yet he protests against any attempt to allegorise Chiliastic prophecies (v. 35. 1). The allegorical elements show that the influence of the Alexandrian school was at work, which was later systematised in the spiritualising method of Tyconius. Yet genuine elements of the Antichrist tradition are preserved, and Irenæus also is, as has been stated, a true Chiliast, and takes the 1000 years of blessedness in a literal sense. As the world was created in six days, and as one day with the Lord was as 1000 years, the world would last 6000 years; and, as a day of rest followed on the six days of work, so there would follow 1000 years of rest on the 6000 years of the earth's history. After this temporary kingdom the final judgment would follow and the new heaven and the new earth.

Next comes Hippolytus, the pupil of Irenæus, who in several details follows in the footsteps of his master. Unfortunately his *Commentary on the Apocalypse* is lost, and accordingly we

have to collect his views from such of his writings as have come down to us. These are especially rich in references to the Antichrist legend. In this connection he takes the two witnesses of chap. xi. to be Enoch and Elijah, and the Antichrist to be from the tribe of Dan.

Traces also of the Contemporary-Historical Method still persist. Thus he interprets the first half of chap. xiii. of the Roman Empire. But Hippolytus does not keep to these earlier and justifiable methods. He, too, has been infected with the Alexandrian spirit. Thus he allegorises the number 666 like Irenæus, and even such a definite historical reference as that in xvii. 10. Here in the words, "They are seven kings; the five are fallen, the one is, the other is not yet come," the Roman Emperors are unquestionably referred to. But Hippolytus makes them symbolise seven world periods of 1000 years each, and determines thereby the time of the Antichrist. Again the woman in chap. xii. is the Church, which is constantly bearing true sons of God—an interpretation which drives most others from the field.

We now come to the most scientific and original representative of this type of interpreters, *i.e.* Victorinus of Pettau in Pannonia. We class him along with Irenæus and Hippolytus, since like them he was a Chiliast, and



still preserved elements of the true and ancient interpretation of the Apocalypse according to the Contemporary-Historical Method. Thus Nero *redivivus* is the first Beast, and the False Prophet is the second. But his most important contribution historically is his theory of Re-capitulation. This is, that the Apocalypse does not represent a strict succession of events following chronologically upon one another, but under each successive series of seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls the same events are dealt with.

§ 2. *Spiritualising Method emanating from Alexandria.*

From these founders of the true school of interpretation we must now turn to the Alexandrians, who, under the influence of Hellenism and the traditional allegorical school of interpretation which came to a head in Philo, rejected the literal sense of the Apocalypse, and attached to it a spiritual significance only. This theory dominates many schools of exegetes down to the present day. Thus Clement saw in the four and twenty elders a symbol of the equality of Jew and Gentile within the Church, and in the tails of the locusts the destructive influences of immoral teachers. Origen as well as his opponent Methodius rejects as Jewish the

literal interpretation of chap. xx. and in the hands of his followers the entire historical contents of the Apocalypse were lost sight of, the meaning assigned to the text became wholly arbitrary, and each man found in it what each man wished to find.

It is no real cause for regret that with the exception of Œcumenius, Andreas and Arethas, the Commentaries of the Greek Church on the Apocalypse have perished. Of these, Andreas believes with Origen in the threefold sense of the Scriptures, and finds the main worth of the book in its spiritual meaning. On the other hand, he shows his dependence on Irenæus and Hippolytus, where their interpretation is historical and not allegorical.

§ 3. *Spiritualising Method combined within Recapitulation Theory.*

But we must now return to the close of the fourth century, to Tyconius, the Donatist, who combines the Spiritualising Method of the Alexandrians with the Recapitulation Method of Victorinus. The works of Tyconius put an end to *Chiliasm* and a realistic eschatology in the Latin Church for many centuries. The Apocalypse, according to this writer, depicted the strife of the Donatistic Church with the false State Church and the world

powers. The two witnesses were the two Testaments, the Beast a symbol of the World power, and the Millennium the period between the first and second advents of Christ. The second advent was to take place  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days, that is, 350 years, after the Crucifixion—therefore about 380 A.D.

The successors of Tyconius removed his references to contemporary events, and thus originated a purely *abstract* spiritualising method of interpretation. Amongst these the earliest and chiefest were Jerome and Augustin. The latter is more truly a disciple of Tyconius; for Jerome stands at the point of transition between the Realistic and Spiritualising Methods. Sometimes he adheres to the one, sometimes to the other. On the interpretation of chap. xx., however, he is a confessed spiritualiser: "Let us," he declares, "have done with this fable of 1000 years." Augustin popularised this interpretation of Tyconius, and thus for the next 800 years the Millennium became simply an era in the Church's history. The ready adoption of this view is intelligible from the new attitude towards the State introduced by Constantine's establishing Christianity as the State Religion.

Other members of this school were Primasius, Cassiodorus, Apringius, Bede, Ambrose,

Ansbertus, Beatus, Haymo, Walafried Strabo, Berengaudus and others. Most of these were untrue in a greater or less degree to the method of their master, as they introduced into their exegesis elements of realistic eschatology from Irenæus and Victorinus.

- The usual interpretation assigned to the 1000 years' reign of Christ, namely, that it signified the era of the Church History beginning either with the birth or Crucifixion of Christ, aroused in the eleventh century, especially in France, the greatest alarm. The hour of Antichrist was at hand, and the end of the world. Multitudes of men gave or bequeathed their possessions to the Church, a religious revival sprang up, monasteries were reformed and Churches filled with ardent worshippers. This movement reached its height about the year 1000 and then died away, to be revived as the 1000th year from our Lord's Crucifixion drew near, only again to die away.

When we come to the twelfth century the Church has wholly overcome its dread of Antichrist and a closely impending end of the world. Secure in its sovereignty over the world, it believed that it realised in itself every expectation that the apostolic community had looked for from the Return of Christ. Ignoring the darker side of the apocalyptic forecasts,



it surrendered itself more and more to the secularising tendencies of the time, and became self-complacent and corrupt.

But this secularising tendency in high places gave birth to a strong reaction in the other direction in certain communities within the Church. Protests from without were to be found on every side among the various heretical sects which, according to William of Newland, were at this time as numerous as the sand of the sea in France, Spain, Italy and Germany. But it is not these that now concern us, but those that arose from within the Church. The internal corruption of the Church and its growing secularisation called forth anew the apocalyptic temper, which found utterance in Norbert and still more in Hildegard, but reached its highest expression in Joachim, Abbot of Floris in Calabria.

§ 4. *The next school of interpretation, therefore, represents a combination of the Eschatological Method involving Chiliasm with the Recapitulation Method and borrowings from the School of Tyconius.*

Joachim<sup>1</sup> (1195) finds the Apocalypse to be a book consisting of eight parts—a history of

<sup>1</sup> Since we owe to Joachim of Floris a very notable *Commentary on the Apocalypse*, and since, moreover, it is one of

the world from its beginning to its close. He divides it into three world periods, the first, that of the Law or of the Father, namely, the Petrine period; the second, that of the Gospel or of the Sons, namely, the Pauline period, which according to his reckoning was to come to a close about 1260; and the third, that of perfect liberty or of the Spirit, namely, the Johannine period.

The duration of the first and second periods

the most important works that have been written on the Apocalypse, not intrinsically but from the standpoint of history, I propose to give here some of the few facts which we know about him.

He is said to have been born in 1145 in Calicum, a village in Calabria. At the age of 14 he went to the Sicilian court, and some years later made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

On his return he became a monk in Calabria, and at the age of 33 or thereabouts, Abbot of the Cistercian Monastery of Corace. Joachim was a deep student of the Bible, and his knowledge was so profound, for his time, that it was attributed to miraculous illumination. Joachim himself maintained that he was not a prophet in the essential sense of the word, but that the spirit of understanding had been given him, and of insight into the prophetic contents of the O.T. and N.T., so that he gathered therefrom the course of the world's history and the changing fortunes of the Church. He recounts (*Comm. in Apoc.*, p. 39), how one Easter night, while he meditated, the entire contents and meaning of the Apocalypse and the Concord of the O.T. and N.T. became clear to him suddenly by a divine revelation. The three Popes, Lucius III. (1181), Urban III. (1185) and Clement III. (1187), encouraged Joachim to publish the disclosures made known to him by God, and to submit his writings to the judgment of the Holy See. Thereupon Joachim resigned the Abbacy of the Cistercian Monastery, and betook

amounted to 6000 years, or six world ages, in harmony with the six days of Creation; then followed the seventh, or the Sabbath rest, of 1000 years, being part of the third period.

But, again, the second period, or that of the Son, falls into six periods of work and strife on the part of the Kingdom of God in the world, and these six times of work are represented in the first six parts of the book. The seventh part contains the Sabbath rest, and

himself in 1192 to a solitary mountain region in the neighbourhood of Cosenza, to the great indignation of the Cistercians, who used every effort, and even appealed to the Pope, to make him return; but in vain.

Joachim, with the approval of Celestine III., established a new Monastery in Floris, and became its Abbot. About this time he wrote his *Commentary on the Apocalypse*. In 1200, two years before he died, he states, in reference to his three chief works—the *Concordia*, the *Expositio in Apocalypsin*, the *Psalterium decem Chordarum*, and smaller writings—that the first had been submitted to the judgment of the Holy See, and that he wished all the rest to be similarly submitted, in case of his death.

This statement is all the more remarkable, seeing that about this date it was a current saying that, when Richard, King of England, and his bishops had come to consult him, he had made to them the astounding disclosure that the papal chair would presently be occupied by an antichrist, whom St. Paul had described as a man of sin and all ungodliness, and that he was already born.

On Joachim's death the Cistercians did their best to have him officially condemned by the Pope, but Honorius III. published a decree to the effect that Joachim was recognised as a true Catholic by the Papacy. (See Döllinger, *Der Weissagungsglaube und das Prophetenthum in dem Christentum*, 319 sqq.)

the eighth the consummation of all things. Moreover, each of the first six parts has again its six times of work and its relative Sabbath rest.

But the contents of the six parts of the Apocalypse he states more definitely as follows : the first treats of the priests, the second of the martyrs, the third of the doctors of the Church, the fourth of the monks and virgins, the fifth of the Church in general, and the sixth of the judgment of Babylon. The first Beast in chap. xiii. is Mohammedanism, the death wound of which was inflicted by the Crusades. The false prophet is identified with the heretical sects. In the sixth part, Babylon is taken to be Rome sunk in secularism and vice, and the Beast is the devil. At the close of the sixth period the Church would be renewed by a return to apostolic poverty and simplicity through a new order of monks, or through two. These would be devoted to the contemplative life.

In most passages of the genuine writings, Joachim speaks only of one order of hermits clad in black. But in some he speaks also of two orders, one of which would represent martyrs to truth, and the other would devote itself to the refutation of heretics.

It is a remarkable coincidence that this last

prediction of Joachim's was speedily fulfilled in the rise of the Franciscans and Dominicans; and this fulfilment naturally won influence and notoriety for Joachim's works. Joachim came soon to be regarded as a prophet, especially by the more fanatical section of the Franciscans. These, owing to the secularisation and corruption of the Papacy, became anti-ecclesiastical and anti-papal, and gave Joachim's prophecies an anti-papal character which their author never intended. For of Joachim's personal loyalty to the Church of Rome there was no question. The Papacy was to him as to Dante, only antichristian in its secularised form. In its true and ideal sense it belonged, according to Joachim, to the eternal order of the Church. But the Franciscan zealots soon came to make no distinction between the ideal of the Papacy and its realisation in history.

I have above observed that one of Joachim's prophecies was speedily fulfilled in the rise of the Franciscans and Dominicans, and that thus his system received, as it were, a divine *imprimatur*. But in another direction Joachim's whole system was shaken to its foundation by events which did not correspond to his predictions. The Emperor Frederick II., to whom so important a rôle was assigned in



this system, died in 1250, and thereby the triumph of the Papacy over the Empire became complete. But Joachim had predicted to this emperor a reign of 70 or 72 years, and a corresponding Babylonish captivity of 70 years to the Church. Ten years later another great disillusionment followed. In 1260 the second world era—that of the Son—was to come to an end and that of the Spirit begin. But this year came and went, and the Church and the world went their accustomed ways.

It is well worth observing that within 50 years after Joachim's death pseudepigraphical Commentaries on Jeremiah and Isaiah bearing Joachim's name became current, fiercely attacking the Papacy and glorifying the Franciscans and Dominicans as the saviours of the world, and in the *Liber Introductorius* of Gerard von Borgo San Donnino the writings of Joachim are declared to be the eternal Gospel mentioned in the Apocalypse. Peter John Olivi, another follower of Joachim, pronounced the Papacy to be the mystical Antichrist, and Ubertino di Casale identified the first Beast in chap. xiii. with Boniface VIII., and the second with Benedict XI., and confirms the identification of the latter by showing that according to the value of the Greek letters  $\beta\epsilon\nu\epsilon\delta\iota\kappa\tau\omicron\varsigma$  (= 2 +

$5 + 50 + 5 + 4 + 10 + 20 + 300 + 70 + 200) = 666$ , the number of the Antichrist.

I must again turn aside, to show how opportune for the progress of things spiritual and things temporal, was the work of Joachim of Floris and his successors. From its attack on the Papacy on the religious side, it gave encouragement alike to the kings and statesmen, who resisted the temporal encroachments of Rome, and to the men of thought and religious life, who resisted its intellectual and spiritual encroachments. Up to the twelfth century the intellectual needs of men had found complete satisfaction within the Church. But from the thirteenth century onwards the more advanced thinkers began to break with the orthodox forms and views of Catholicism. The services which Catholicism had rendered to civilisation by the moral force it had inspired in the race, and by its organisation of the most heterogeneous elements into the forms from which every modern institution is constituted, are practically incommensurable. But the supremacy of Mediæval Catholicism could clearly only be transitory; and her attitude of immobility could only be maintained by the entire suppression of every forward movement of the intellect.

Accordingly with the revival of learning,

Catholicism, which, heretofore, had led the van in every department of human thought and energy, now made a retrograde movement, and sought to arrest the expansion of the human mind, and curb every effort after liberty and thought. This change in the attitude of the Church first shows itself in the twelfth century, and found concrete expression in the official establishment of the Inquisition by Innocent III. between 1198 and 1207, who as a jurist assimilated the crime of high treason against God to high treason against the civil ruler. In the next year followed the massacre of the Albigenses, and the principle of coercion was formally enunciated at the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), whereby rulers were required "to swear a public oath to exterminate all those who were branded as heretics by the Church." The Papacy reached its zenith under Innocent III. (1198-1216). In his inaugural sermon he declared: "I am the Vicar of Jesus Christ, the successor of Peter, and I am placed between God and man, less than God, but greater than man: I judge all men, but I can be judged of none."

Now there is a strange irony in the fact, that possibly at the very time Innocent was making these preposterous claims, antagonistic to all true progress in religion, in thought

and in science, Joachim may have been recording his prediction that a pope would be Antichrist. However this may be, he had at all events finished wholly or in part his Commentary on St. John, from which every class of men—statesmen, thinkers, monks, students, artisans, and men of the world generally drew for generations strength and courage to press onward towards the better time, and to resist, in their diverse ways, the claims of the Papacy, which stood between them and the promised City of God.

In fact, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the Apocalypse was used as the chief weapon of offence against the Church of Rome. The Wycliffites in England, the Hussites in Bohemia, the Waldenses, the Kathari and others were all at one in applying the prophecies of the Antichrist in the Apocalypse to the Papacy. Each reckoned according to his own fancy, and their interpretations were the offspring of unbridled imagination. But while the extreme Franciscans and other religious confraternities identified Rome with the Antichrist, the papal scholars retorted by condemning their assailants as the collective Antichrist, both sides using equally indefensible methods of interpretation.

This unbounded licence in the interpretation of the Apocalypse, which is the natural and

inevitable result of the dominant method of interpretation, *i.e.* the allegorical and mystical, was not confined to theologians and theological questions. Strangely enough, the Apocalypse won through this misuse public and even political significance in the Middle Ages, and became an actual force in moulding the history of the times. Thus, when Innocent III. summoned the Church in the West to undertake a new Crusade, he declared officially that the Saracens were, according to the Apocalypse, the true Antichrist, and Mohammed the false Prophet; and that the end of their power was at hand, since its duration was limited to 666 years, which should elapse from the appearance of Antichrist in Mohammed.

At a later date, Gregory IX., when at strife with the Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick II., condemned him as the Beast mentioned in chap. xiii. risen from the sea full of names of blasphemy. The same Emperor, however, retorted in apocalyptic language: "The Pope himself is the great dragon who has seduced all the world, the Antichrist whose forerunner he has declared me to be" (Gieseler, *Eccl. Hist.* iii. 102, Eng. trans.). I have dwelt, perhaps, at disproportionate length on Joachim's and the related schools of interpretation because of their paramount influence in questions of Church



and Social Reform. The common people looked to the coming seventh age predicted by Joachim for deliverance from the tyrannies and corruptions of Church and State, and the strongest weapons for assailing such evils were forged by the students of the Apocalypse. The ferment spread with every decade in depth and extent, till at last from the spiritual and intellectual travail of the ages the Reformation came to the birth. When the reformed Churches had once consolidated themselves, the interest in the prophecies of the Apocalypse declined, though its study was still vigorously pursued, partly with polemical and partly with dogmatic aims.

Let us now summarise briefly the different character and effects of the two chief schools of interpretation. In the hands of Tyconius and his followers the Spiritualising Method together with the Recapitulation Theory was applied with such thoroughness as to remove from the Apocalypse nearly every reference to contemporary events—that is, events contemporary with the individual expositor or the original author, and so to destroy its significance for its own immediate age or any other. The interpretation thus became abstract and unrelated to the actual events of history, and the Church, ceasing to feel itself hampered by its prophecies, became self-satisfied, and its secu-

larisation went on apace. Thus the work of this school, which could identify the 1000 years' reign of the saints with the 1000 years of the Church's history, contributed without doubt to its carnal security and its spiritual stagnation.

A very different result followed on the efforts of Joachim and other workers of similar type. The eschatological school of Joachim, which was based on a revival of the methods of Irenæus and Victorinus with borrowings of details from the school of Tyconius, found the events of their own day mystically shadowed forth as well as the impending end of the world. The growing demoralisation of the Church tended in itself to justify in some measure the later writings of this school, which boldly identified Rome with the Scarlet Woman and the Pope with the Antichrist. Convinced that these predictions were at last fulfilled in Rome, hosts of students of the Apocalypse were emboldened to spiritual rebellion against her. The elements of such rebellion were present everywhere, and so the ferment, social and ecclesiastical, grew in volume till, as we have already remarked, from the threatening chaos the Reformation emerged, securing liberty of conscience for religious men and liberty of thought for men of science.

In the sixteenth century, when this movement had fully asserted itself, we shall find that the Reformers followed in the main two different methods of interpretation: The first is the Church- or World-Historical, initiated by Petrus Aureolus and adopted by Luther, the second the Recapitulation Method of Joachim's school with an intensified anti-papal bias but without Chiliasm.

#### § 5. *Church-Historical Method.*

The first method, the Church- or World-Historical, originated in the fourteenth century. This method was present in germ in the historically applied Recapitulation Theory. It was in effect an application to the whole Apocalypse of the principle that Joachim and others had applied to each division of it. Its two founders were Petrus Aureolus (1317) and Nicolaus of Lyra (1329). These found in the Apocalypse a history of the Church's fortunes prefigured in the actual order of its occurrence, and not the same events continually rehandled as in the Recapitulation Theory. This method was adopted by Luther, who combined with it a strong anti-papal polemic. This latter element, it is worth observing, he drew from an Englishman named Purvey, a disciple of Wycliffe, whose *Commentary on the Apocalypse*, Luther

published in the year 1528. In 1534, Luther gave a short and brilliant but entirely fanciful interpretation of the entire Apocalypse in his preface to his translation. The first three chapters he interprets with sound tact in their natural sense, but from chap. iv. onwards his method is just as arbitrary as that of his predecessors. Luther's views long dominated the interpretation of the Apocalypse within the Lutheran Church, and are reproduced by such writers as Bugenhagen, Funke, Osiander, and Calovius, the two first of whom take the angel with the eternal Gospel as prefiguring Luther. In this school the Apocalypse was regarded as a prophetic *Compendium of Church History*.

Of writers independent of Luther who nevertheless used the Church-Historical Method and gave it an anti-papal character, might be mentioned Lambertus, who shows Chiliastic elements, Hoffmann, Marloratus, Bullinger and Bibliander (1549). This last-named scholar is thoroughly eclectic, but highly interesting. He finds in the seven seals the history of this world from Adam to its close, in the trumpets a recapitulation, in the woman in chap. xii. the Church which bears Christ, the first persecution of her children being by the Jews and the second by Nero. The Beast he interprets as the Roman Empire, its wound as Nero's

death, which is healed by the accession of Vespasian. Here we have elements of the original Contemporary - Historical Method. From this point onwards his interpretation degenerates into the usual anti-papal distortion of the text.

With the followers of the Church-Historical Method we might mention the English scholar Brightman. This scholar interprets after this method i.-x., but finds in xi.-xiv. a recapitulation of the same period as i.-x. from a different point of view.

Also the French bishop and theologian Bossuet (1690). The work of the latter is strongly propapal and anti-reformation. He finds in Gog and Magog the prediction of the invasion of Europe by the Turks and the heresy of Luther.

The followers of Bossuet, Aubert de Versé and de Sacy, might here be mentioned, though their works were not published till the beginning of the eighteenth century. The former has some interesting interpretations. He ascribes the Apocalypse to Nero's time, and limits its prophecies to the Roman Church. Chap. xi. he refers to the destruction of Jerusalem, in xii. he finds the beginnings of Christianity, and in xiii. sources of the great crises of the Roman Empire. The second Beast he takes to be the



heathen priesthood. The sixth head is Nero. The outlook extends to Attila. Aubert's method is eclectic. It embraces elements of the Contemporary-Historical, World-Historical and Eschatological Methods.

§ 10 *We now come to the second chief school of interpretation amongst the Reformers, the Recapitulation Method in an embittered anti-papal form but non-Chiliastic.*

All reformers did not apply the World-Historical Method to the interpretation of the Apocalypse. Many learned scholars fell back on the Recapitulation Theory which had been used with such success by Joachim and his school. The anti-papal tone which had marked the successors of Joachim became in these writers the dominant characteristic. They did not, however, adopt the Chiliastic views of this school. From this they were debarred by the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions, which branded Chiliasm as a Judaistic heresy. Amongst these scholars might be mentioned Conradi (1560), Sakerides, Collado (1581) and Paræus (1618) on the Continent, and Foxe (1586) and Napier (1593) in Great Britain. Of these Collado held that the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls referred to nearly the same events. Into the characteristic

suppositions of this school we cannot naturally enter here. Arbitrariness reigns supreme. Under the World-Historical Method the exegete was bound by certain laws of sequence. Even from these last fetters of law and order is the Recapitulationist exempt. The hopelessness of arriving at any settled and reasonable results from these methods became manifest in certain quarters at an early date. Thus Calvin abstained from writing a Commentary on the Apocalypse, and Scaliger, one of the greatest Classics of the sixteenth century, who also declined the task, used frequently to say — *Calvinus sapit quod in Apocalypsin non scripsit.*

Through the application of this method the Apocalypse became the theatre for the exercise of a perverse ingenuity, on which one arbitrary interpretation had hardly established itself, when it was dislodged by another, no less arbitrary. Moreover, amongst Protestant continental scholars who were dominated by this theory, the possibilities of a right interpretation of chap. xx. was denied them, since in the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions, Chiliastic views were condemned as heretical. Since no such veto existed in England, we shall find that amidst all the grotesque, unscientific and fanatical anti-papal exegesis of our countrymen,

this fragment of the right interpretation was in the main preserved.

§ 7. *Rise of the Philological School.*

Contemporaneously with the schools of interpretation just dealt with, there was a third destined to become in time a very important school, which devoted itself all but exclusively to the philological study of the Apocalypse. To this school belonged Camerarius (1556), Beza (1556), Castellio (1583), Drusius (1612) and others in the seventeenth century. A feeling of despair as to ever arriving at the real meaning of the Apocalypse had no little share in giving birth to this school. Camerarius writes: "Since an actual faculty of vaticination is requisite in order to discover the meaning of predictions still unfulfilled, the Greek verse interpreted by Cicero as *Bene qui conjiciet, vatem hunc perhibete optimum* ('call the good guesser the best seer'), is especially applicable here."

§ 8. *Revival of Contemporary and Eschatological Methods.*

But while success appeared hopeless, and no interpretation could justify itself as more than a mere conjecture to the critical judgment, the way towards a scientific exegesis was being

prepared by a break with the World-Historical and Spiritualising Methods and a return to those of Irenæus, Hippolytus and Victorinus on the part of some Jesuit scholars—Hentenius, Ribeira, Salmeron, Pereyra, Alcasar, Juan Mariana, and others.

The polemical interpretations of the Reformers directed against Rome naturally drew forth rejoinders from its leading scholars, and by far the most effective and scientific emanated from the Jesuits just mentioned. These writers returned to a literal interpretation of the text, and attempted in some degree to understand the contents of the book from the standpoint of the author: they sought to prove that the time of the Antichrist was still in the distant future, and interpreted the prophecy of the Babylonian whore of heathen Rome with a view to the greater glorification of Rome Christian.

It is possible that this return to the methods of Irenæus and Victorinus may have been suggested by the use that Bibliander and Bullinger made of these early Fathers. However this may be, a breach was made with the World-Historical and Spiritualising and Recapitulation Methods, and at the same time the beginning or rather the revival of a partially scientific exposition of the Apocalypse.

A forerunner of this school was Hentenius (1547), who in a preface to an edition of Arethas tried to show that chaps. vi.—xi. dealt with the overthrow of the Synagogue, and xii.—xix. with the destruction of heathenism under the figure Babylon. Salmeron (1614) took the same view, and agreed with Hentenius that the Apocalypse was written before the fall of Jerusalem. He refused, however, to write a Commentary on the Apocalypse, and compared such an undertaking with an attempt to square the circle. But two names of great merit stand forth from the rest in this school, namely Ribeira (*ob.* 1591) and Alcasar (1614). The former argues rightly that the author prophesies only of his own time and the last times. The first five seals began with the preaching of Christ, and end with Trajan's persecution. In the sixth seal (vi. 12) the author passes on to the signs of the last time, which are still to come, even for Ribeira. Babylon he identified with Rome—not merely Rome pagan, but also Rome in the last days, when it would break with the Roman See (see Ribeira (ed. 1593), p. 282 sqq.). Alcasar, like his predecessor Hentenius, regards chaps. vi.—xi. as dealing with the conflict of the Church with Judaism, xii.—xix. as forecasting the conflict with heathenism, and xx.—xxii. as



describing Rome's triumph and dominion. The woman in chap. xii. is the Jewish Christian community which bears the Gentile Church. This Church is forthwith persecuted by the Roman Empire. The first Beast is the Roman Empire, the second is *ἡ ἀλαζονεία βίου* (= "the pride of life") = 666. The head, that had seemed dead and had revived, was Domitian, who recalled the Nero of the past. Constantine was the angel who bound Satan. Thereupon the Millennium began. xix. 11 sqq. represent the complete conversion of the Roman Empire and the present glory and authority of papal Rome. Alcasar dedicates his work to Pope Paul, and exults that he has been the first to bring this light out of the darkness of the Apocalypse. Unfortunately for Alcasar, whatever fragments of the true interpretation he may have recovered from the earlier chapters, it is just from chap. xii. where he adopts the World-Historical Method that his exegesis becomes subjective, and the contribution, that he esteemed of most importance, is really of no value whatever.

Before we leave this section we might mention Mariana (1619), who interprets the death wound of the Beast of Nero's suicide, as originally did Victorinus; and the healing of this wound, of the belief in Nero's return

from the East. The seven trumpets refer to different heretics, and the fifth to Luther.

As the recovery of the Chiliastic interpretation of the Apocalypse by Joachim and his followers was the chief scientific contribution of the thirteenth century to the exegesis of the Apocalypse, so the recovery and application of the Contemporary-Historical Theory by the Jesuits was the chief scientific contribution of the end of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth century.

§ 9. *From these schools we pass on to extravagant developments of the Recapitulation and Chiliastic Methods: and to the rise of the Literary-Critical in the seventeenth century.*

From Ribeira's and Alcasar's Commentaries their religious opponents in Germany could have learnt a more excellent way of exegesis. Nay more, from their fellow-religionist Bibliander, who was earlier than either, they might have gleaned the elements of a better method, but the dread of the Papacy blinded as yet the eyes of nearly all Protestant scholars. No method that obliged them to abandon an anti-papal interpretation of the Apocalypse could gain a hearing save from a solitary scholar or two. It is true that the scholars of the sixteenth

century were justified in maintaining that the Apocalypse dealt with Rome, but in insisting that it was Rome papal they were wrong, but after all not so extravagantly wrong as Alcasar, who made the extraordinary discovery that the secret aim of the Apocalypse was to denounce heathen and glorify papal Rome.

Matters being so, the choice of methods, especially for continental Protestants, was very limited. They could not revert to a Chiliastic interpretation; for such views were heretical according to the Articles of their Churches: nor could they accept the Contemporary-Historical Method; for this would necessitate their abandonment of an anti-papal interpretation: nor, finally, could they use the World-Historical interpretation, since this method had become discredited through its unbounded arbitrariness and utter barrenness of assured results. Thus their choice was limited to the Recapitulation Theory, unless they broke with their Church symbols, or discovered a new method of interpretation. We shall find, as we proceed, that Protestant scholars on the Continent as a matter of fact did both. They revived the Chiliastic doctrine with a vigour never displayed in earlier times, and they initiated the beginnings of the Literary Critical Method.

But before we deal with these we must

mention Crocius, Hofmann, and Coccejus, notable scholars of this century, who still clung to the Recapitulation Theory. In the hands of Coccejus (1668), the Recapitulation Theory was carried to the most extravagant lengths. History runs parallel courses not only in the seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven bowls, but even in the account of the seven Churches. The Millennium belonged to the past. A similar, though more reasonable form of the Recapitulation Theory, was advanced by Marekius towards the close of this century.

But turning from this thoroughly antiquated method, we are met with the most vigorous, though not the most judicious, school of interpretation of this century, that is, the Chiliastic. This method, which could flourish openly in England, but which was branded as Judaistic on the Continent, as we have already pointed out, by the Confessions of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches, had always been popular among the continental heretics, especially after its revival by Joachim. Its chief English representative was Mede (1627 and 1632), whose views on the synchronism existing between the first nine chapters and the rest of the book—the former dealing with the destinies of the Empire, the latter with those

of the Church—were adopted widely in England and were reproduced also in Germany. The theory is difficult to characterise, but it may from one standpoint be regarded as a species of the Recapitulation Method. Mede's chief English disciples were Sir Isaac Newton and Whiston. The latter, like many of his predecessors, ventured to predict the year on which the Millennium would begin. First he fixed on 1715 and next on 1734 as the year in question ; but as he had the misfortune to survive both these dates, a fresh study of his data and no doubt a larger prudence made him relegate this date to 1866—beyond the reach of his own or the next two generations. Amongst Mede's German disciples were Peganus—a *nom de guerre*—and Vitranga (1705). The latter adopted in part the Recapitulation System of Coccejus, with the Chiliastic interpretation of Mede, and found the entire history of the Church foretold in the first six seals, but in the interpretation of the trumpets, the bowls, the Beast and the 1000 years he appears to be dependent on Mede. Through this influential work, Chiliasm became popular in the *pietistic* circles of Germany, despite the ban of the Augsburg Confession.

Other adherents of this school were Abbadie, Lange (1730) and Bengel (1740, etc.).



Lange interprets the whole Apocalypse from chap. iv. onwards eschatologically. Bengel is wildly Chiliastic—in fact he finds a double Millennium predicted—the first from 1836 to 2836 when Satan would be bound, and the second from 2836 to 3836, *i.e.* the true Millennium and the final judgment. With Bengel's work, Chiliasm finally emerged from the ban of the Lutheran Church.

From this triumphant and extravagant assertion of Chiliasm we must turn now to the most interesting movement in the seventeenth century which took its rise from Grotius (1644); *i.e.*

§ 10. *The discovery of the Literary-Critical Method and the adoption of the Contemporary-Historical Method by Protestant Scholars.*

The most notable contribution, next to those of the Jesuit scholars of the seventeenth century, was made by the Dutch scholar Grotius. Grotius' interpretation of the Apocalypse was of a very eclectic character. It diverges from that of earlier scholars of the Reformation in that it ignores wholly the current anti-papal interpretation. This is the first ground for distinction. This advance he may have owed in part to Bibliander, whose work contains so

many fresh contributions to a better knowledge of the Apocalypse; but it was certainly due in the main to his use of the Jesuit Alcasar. For, like Alcasar, he divides the book into three parts: chaps. vi.—xi. the Judgment on Judaism, xii.—xix. the judgment on heathenism, xx.—xxii. the condition of the Church since Constantine. With chap. xiv. Grotius, like Alcasar, passes from the Contemporary-Historical to the World-Historical Method. His independent attempts at a detailed interpretation of the Apocalypse cannot be called happy. According to Grotius, chap. xi. refers to the troubles occasioned by Barcochba in the reign of Trajan. The first two-thirds of chap. xii. are a description of Simon Magus, who is an instrument of the Dragon, or Satan. The seven heads of the Beast are the seven Emperors, beginning with Claudius and ending with Titus. In xii. 13 begins the persecution of Nero; in xii. 17 that of Domitian. The number 666 means Ulpius—part of the name of Trajan. Yet when he comes to xvii. 11 this Beast is said to be Domitian, since he was known as the bald Nero—Calvus Nero. It is not by his detailed interpretation, of which I have given a few specimens, that Grotius established a claim to remembrance in connection with the Apocalypse, but by two new departures which

he made. He was the first Protestant scholar to break definitely with the anti-papal interpretation, and to lead the way towards the recovery of the Contemporary-Historical Method. In this respect, of course, he was not original; for he was only adopting the sounder method revived by Bibliander and the Jesuits. But in the second departure he was original. Observing that certain portions of the Apocalypse presupposed different historical relations, and that tradition itself was divided as to the place and date of its composition, he conjectured that the Apocalypse was composed of several visions written down at different times and in different places, some before and some after the destruction of Jerusalem.

The earlier prophecies against Jerusalem were written while the Seer was an exile in Patmos under Claudius; the later prophecies were written under Vespasian in Ephesus. Thus Grotius thought the conflicting elements in tradition and the text were satisfactorily explained. In this theory of Grotius we have the beginnings of a new method—that of the Literary-Critical, which is so prominent in our own day and without which several outstanding difficulties of the Apocalypse cannot be solved.

Grotius was followed in England by Ham-

mond; but the time had not yet come when Grotius' real merits could be recognised.

Bengel and his school triumphantly held the field. Their wildest interpretations were eagerly welcomed by the religious public. Nothing was too fatuous for the prevailing taste.

Every expounder assumed the airs of a prophet, and the numbers and dates of the Apocalypse were the subject of the most fantastic theories. These groundless fancies found special acceptance in England, where Mede, Newton and Whiston had deepened the interest in Apocalyptic studies. Bengel's work was translated into English at the especial request of John Wesley, and thus became a dominant authority in this country amongst the most religious men of the time.

§ 11. *But unreason cannot maintain itself indefinitely: at last the Contemporary-Historical Method asserted itself in a thoroughgoing but in a limited and perverse form.*

Such was the prevailing attitude towards the Apocalypse till the middle of the eighteenth century. But the time was ripe for better things. The World-Historical and Church-Historical Methods had run their

course, and so far from reaching any impregnable or generally accepted results, had established their incompetence on this field by their hopeless arbitrariness and unprofitableness. The Apocalyptic chronologisings, moreover, which had been rife in England and had subsequently been popularised on a gigantic scale by Bengel in Germany, had served to alienate the more intelligent from this and other popular methods of interpretation. But the most important event connected with such subjects was the rise of historical criticism in this century. It is remarkable that a century that gave birth to the most boundless subjectivism should have also called the historic sense into active existence. Hope at last dawns on the long journey we have taken down the centuries. From this time forward we can reckon, on the whole, on a steady advance towards the solution of the problem. Progress may have occasionally to be made by roundabout ways, wrong paths may for a time be pursued, side issues be mistaken for the problems-in-chief, and criticism thereby be obliged to retrace its steps after apparently spending its energies in vain. But, notwithstanding, possession in part of the promised land has been won, and its entire conquest is only a question of time.



Under the influence of this rising critical spirit in rude collision with the dominant methods of interpretation the bold thesis was advanced, that the prophecies of the Apocalypse, so far from embracing the entire history of the world or even of the Jewish or Christian Churches, were directed firstly and lastly against Jerusalem.

Thus the Apocalypse was interpreted in this school by the Contemporary-Historical Method in a very limited sense. The chief advocates of this view were Abauzit, Harduin, Wetstein, Harenberg, Herder and Züllig, writing from 1732 to 1840.

Great differences of interpretation exist among these critics, since the application of the Contemporary-Historical Method in such a limited sense forced its adherents to do violence repeatedly to the obvious sense of the text. Thus they discovered the seven hills to be in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, the seven Churches within Jerusalem, the seven heads of the Beast in the Herodian kings, and other like perversities. Notwithstanding, the rightness of this method for the interpretation of the Apocalypse was recognised and the way prepared, and none too soon, for the fitter and adequate application of this method by Corrodi, Herrensneider, Eichhorn, Bleek,

Ewald and others. None too soon, I repeat; for in Reimarus, towards the end of the eighteenth century, it is stated that "reasonable theologians prefer to refrain from the seven sealed book and confess that of all its wonderful visions they cannot with certainty interpret a single one." A similar confession is made by Schleiermacher.

§ 12. *But it was soon discovered that this circumscribed application of this method was untenable, and so scholars passed on to the full and legitimate application of the Contemporary-Historical Method without or with Chiliasmatic interpretation.*

According to this school of interpreters the Apocalypse was directed against Judaism, and against the Roman Empire and especially its capital.

Corrodi, in his *Geschichte des Chiliasmus* (1780), did much to help forward this method of interpretation by explaining the Apocalypse from Jewish Rabbinical writings, interpreting the ten kings of the Parthians, and defending the reference of the Antichrist to Nero. Herrensneider (1786), in an Inaugural Dissertation at Strassburg, expounded briefly this method which Eichhorn applied in a learned commentary.

The most distinguished representatives of this school, such as Semler, Corrodi, Bleek, Ewald, De Wette, Lücke, Volkmar, conclude that xi. 1, 2 speaks of the preservation of the Temple. Hence the Apocalypse, if we assume its unity, was written before 70 A.D.

Since these two verses are of great importance in dating at all events a part of the book, I will here quote them. Rev. xi. 1, 2, "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod : and one said, Rise, and measure the temple of God and the altar, and them that worship therein. And the court which is without the temple leave without, and measure it not ; for it hath been given unto the nations : and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months." The scholars above mentioned established as an assured result the fact that the Apocalypse was directed essentially against Rome, and, as a result practically beyond the reach of cavil, the identification of the Antichrist with Nero *redivivus*. This identification is notably confirmed by the interpretation of the mystical number 666, arrived at independently by four scholars in the nineteenth century, Fritzsche, Benary, Hitzig, and Reuss. These discovered that the value of the letters in Cæsar Nero, when written in Hebrew (נְרֹוֹסֵרְסָר), amounts to 666 ; and this discovery is corroborated by the

fact that in the Uncial MS. C, the two Cursives 5 and 11, in Tyconius and the original Armenian Version, the mystic number was given not as 666, but as 616. The difference between 666 and 616 can at once be explained on the above theory; for whereas the Greeks spelt Nero with a final  $\nu$  (*Nέρον*), the Latins, of course, did not. In the West and the countries influenced by it, the omission of this  $\nu$  (which as a numeral = 50), reduced the number 666 to 616. Finally, they universally and rightly interpreted chap. xx. chiliastically, and chap. xvi. generally of the Parthians. The best account of this school is given by De Wette (p. 7), "In so far as (the writer of the Apocalypse) reproves and admonishes in the prophetic character, he manifestly takes this standpoint in the Letters to the Seven Communities in Asia Minor, the conditions of which he knows so accurately and depicts so faithfully. But, if we had some further knowledge of their history, a clear representation of them would lie before us. In so far as the writer of the Apocalypse has the whole Church and its future before his eyes, it is clear from a multitude of passages that his chief impulse to prophetic activity arose from his still vivid impression of the Neronic persecution bound up with the popular belief that this persecutor

of the Christians was still alive and would soon return as the fully realised Antichrist. As the chief enemy of the Christian Church, he recognised the idolatrous religious system of Rome supported by its world power and maintained by the devices of its priests. . . . It is not with the destruction of Jerusalem, which he does not look for, that he connects the hope of the victory of Christ . . . but of Rome; for Rome is for him the home—of the Antichrist, the new Babylon which must be destroyed, if the Christian faith is to triumph.”

Here at last we have reached the right method with which to begin our study of the Apocalypse—to begin, I repeat; for other methods than the Contemporary-Historical and Eschatological are needed for its complete interpretation.

Before, however, we deal with these, we must turn aside for a brief notice of some modern representatives of antiquated methods in the beginning of the next lecture.



## CHAPTER II.

### HISTORY OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE APOCALYPSE—*Concluded.*

BEFORE I enter on the fuller treatment of the methods which made real contributions to the interpretation of the Apocalypse, I must deal shortly with certain antiquated methods which have still their followers in the learned world, though they are often combined by them with one or more of the sounder methods of the past.

§ 13. *Of these we should perhaps mention first the "Astronomical" Method.*<sup>1</sup>

This method was originally put forward by Dupuis in his *Origine de tous les Cultes*, first published in 1795. The edition which I have used is that of 1835, in ten volumes. The author devotes pp. 101–384 to an examination of the Apocalypse. While he doubts its authenticity, he does not apparently question its origin in the first century A.D.

<sup>1</sup> I have discovered since the above was written that in an anonymous work, entitled *Horus oder Astrognostisches Endurtheil über die Offenbarung Johannis*, 1783, this method was already adopted.

As regards its relation to astronomy or astrology, Dupuis connects the idea of the Seven Churches and the Seven Spheres, viii. 156 sq. He explains the woman in chap. xii. who is pursued by a serpent as a reflection of the constellation of the Virgin and the Serpent. Similarly, he seeks to explain why the numbers seven and twelve and the Lamb play so great a rôle in the Apocalypse, viii. 133.

This method has been recently revived in Germany by Jäger and Hommel. In *Reformation*, viii. 212-213, 1909, Hommel speaks of the brilliant discovery of Pastor Samuel Jäger, who claims to have detected allusions to the six intermediate constellations of the Zodiac, beginning with the Goat, in Apoc. viii. 13, ix. 3-10, 14, x., xi. 1, xii. 11 sqq., 3 sq. Hommel supplements Jäger's discovery by finding references to the last three, *i.e.* the Crab, Twins and Ox, in xiii. 1-10, 14, xv. 1, and to the first three, *i.e.* the Ram, Fish and Aquarius, in viii. 7, 8, 10.

This method was next advocated in the *Expositor*, 1911 (160-180, 210-230, 461-474, 504-519), in four articles, entitled *The Symbolical Language of the Apocalypse*, which are in part translated from the German of Dr. Johannes Lepsius, and in part written by Sir William Ramsay.

Dr. Lepsius holds that the Apocalypse is, in a certain sense, an astrological book; for it makes free use of the symbolical language of ancient Oriental astrology.

The Cherubim are "the four constellations which mark, according to the four quarters of the universe, the spring equinox, the summer solstice, the autumn equinox and the winter solstice" (p. 223)—*i.e.* the Lion, Ox, Water carrier, Scorpion. Again—"In the description of the twelve foundation stones of the celestial Jerusalem we meet with the colours of the standards of the twelve tribes (corresponding to the precious stones of the breastplate); for the twelve-gated celestial city, with its twelve-towered gates, is nothing else but the firmament, with the twelve gates of the firmament." Like many other scholars, he identifies the twenty-four elders with the twenty-four constellations of the northern and southern hemispheres, which, according to Diod. ii. 31, were called by the Babylonians "the judges over all things." Again, "as the twelve signs of the Zodiac are the guardian angels of the twelve tribes of Israel, so the seven planet angels are the guardian angels of the peoples and of the heathen-Christian communities" (p. 225); likewise, since, according to Josephus (*Bell. Jud.* v. 5. 5). the twelve shewbreads signify the

twelve signs of the Zodiac, the Table of the Shewbread and the Candlesticks represent the community of God—of Israel and of the Gentiles. There are a great number of similar explanations, but we cannot deal with them here.

Ramsay writes with regard to Dr. Lepsius' theory that "the astronomical method, while it is a useful servant, must not be taken as a master and director" (p. 506); but in these articles his practice has not perhaps been as wise as his counsel; for he seems to have unduly committed himself to it.

Another work that has adopted this method was by a Russian, Nicolaus Morosow, published in 1907, and translated into German in 1912 under the title, *Die Offenbarung Johannis eine astronomisch-historische Untersuchung*. The Introduction is furnished by Dr. Drews of Karlsruhe, whose credulity in regard to the fanciful and absurd varies in direct ratio to his scepticism in things historical.

Morosow claims to have established not only the year of the vision of the writer of the Apocalypse, *but even the actual day and hour in the year 395 A.D.*! The writer was John Chrysostom. It speaks ill for Russia that 6000 copies of a book of this type should have been sold in one year, and still worse for the Russian Church that it felt itself obliged in

self-defence to have this book placed on the Index by the State.

Morosow deduces the above date from two alleged grounds. (1) The life of Chrysostom is not intelligible save on the presupposition that he wrote the Apocalypse. (2) The representation of the heaven given in the Apocalypse corresponds exactly to what it appeared from the island of Patmos in the evening of September 30, 395 A.D., and the like appearance has never been witnessed from this island since the Christian era. To (1) no scholar who knows the Greek of the Apocalypse and that of Chrysostom could agree.

As regards (2) the student who is acquainted with Jewish and Christian apocalyptic will regard the entire hypothesis as a grotesque *jeu d'esprit*. That behind several of the figures and conceptions in the Apocalypse lay astronomical ideas he will be the first to acknowledge, but he will at the same time be convinced that to the Seer the astronomical origin of these conceptions was in most cases wholly unknown.

§ 14. *Other antiquated methods, which are still in some measure current, are the World-Historical, the Church-Historical, and the Symbolical-Historical.*

A combination of the first two methods is



to be found in the works of Hengstenberg (1849-51), Ebrard and Elliott with a strong anti-papal bias. The Apocalypse becomes a prophetic compendium of the history of the world and the Church. In the massive Commentary of Elliott we find a naïve confession as to his chief auxiliary in the interpretation of the Apocalypse, which is none other than Gibbon's *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

But this system of exegesis was abandoned by Auberlen (1874), to whom we owe the Symbolical-Historical, according to which the Apocalypse prophesies, not of individual historical events, but of great turning points in the struggle between light and darkness, truth and falsehood, in the history of the Church. Auberlen has been followed in this country by Milligan and Archbishop Benson.

Others, like Von Hoffmann and Van Lorentz, combined the Church-Historical and Symbolical-Historical. Here we might place our learned countryman Alford, who, together with these methods, had recourse to a weakened form of the Recapitulation Theory. His interpretation is chiliastic, like other members of this school, and also anti-papal.

Next we have the Eschatological Method, adopted in its integrity by Kliefoth (1874),

Lange, Zahn, and Roman Catholic scholars as Stern, Kremenz and Waller.

Lastly, we must mention in a class by itself the recent valuable and learned Commentary by Dr. Swete. This writer, who maintains the literary unity of the Apocalypse to the complete exclusion of the use of sources, follows at one time the Contemporary-Historical, at another the World-Historical and Church-Historical Methods, at another the Symbolical-Historical, and at another the Eschatological (p. ccxviii). While some of these methods are indispensable, others have made no contribution to the interpretation of the Apocalypse. They may be used, indeed, for purposes of edification, and can rightly be so used, but we must remember that in seeking to interpret the Apocalypse we are seeking to discover what the Apocalypse meant to its writer and its earliest readers, who were in touch with him.

§ 15. *Of the methods hitherto dealt with, the only methods that have made a permanent contribution are the Contemporary-Historical and Eschatological, and in a minor degree the Philological.*

From the Contemporary-Historical Method we have learnt that the Apocalypse is directed

mainly against the heathen Empire of Rome supported by its heathen priesthood, that Nero *redivivus* is the wounded head, that it is Nero Cæsar that is referred to in the mystical number 666, and, finally, that the Temple was still standing when xi. 1, 2 was written.

It thus follows that the date of the Apocalypse, according to this school, was about 67-68 or thereabouts. And if the absolute unity of the Apocalypse be assumed, there is no possibility, I think, of evading this conclusion.<sup>1</sup>

But if we accept 68 as the date of the entire work, there are many passages which are hopelessly inexplicable; for these just as inevitably postulate a date subsequent to 70 A.D. as xi. 1, 2 in its original setting postulates a date anterior to it. If, then, the possibilities of exegesis were exhausted in the methods already dealt with, science would have to relegate portions of the Apocalypse to the limbo

<sup>1</sup> W. M. Ramsay in his admirable commentary on *The Letters to the Seven Churches* (1904), holds apparently to the absolute unity of the Apocalypse, and yet at the same time accepts the Domitianic date. But the Contemporary-Historical Method combined with the Eschatological is not adequate to the task of explaining the Apocalypse. Hort (in his posthumous work, *The Apocalypse of St. John*, i.-iii., published in 1908 but really written as early as 1879) accepts the absolute unity of the Apocalypse and yet maintains the early date.

of unsolved and unsolvable problems. But there is no such *impasse*. In the New Testament Apocalypse there is not that rigid unity of authorship and consistency of detail that the past has presupposed. Within recent years it has been proved to demonstration by the methods of *Literary Criticism* that most of the Old Testament legalistic and prophetic books are composite, and the same fact has been established with regard to the Apocalyptic Literature, to which literature the New Testament Apocalypse itself belongs. Some of the Jewish Apocalypses, like the Ascension of Isaiah, betray the handiwork of successive editors, and are accordingly to be explained on the *Redactional Hypothesis*. Others, like the Ethiopic Book of Enoch (or 1 Enoch), exhibit a series of independent sources connected more or less loosely together, and are to be explained on the *Sources Hypothesis*. Others again, like the Testaments of the XII Patriarchs and the Book of Jubilees, manifest an undoubted unity of authorship, though the author has from time to time drawn from other sources, and has not always assimilated these fragmentary elements to their new contexts. Such works are to be explained on the *Fragmentary Hypothesis*. Now scholars have in recent years applied with varying success these

three hypothesis with a view to the solution of the N. T. Apocalypse.

We have now come to the parting of the ways. All the preceding methods presupposed an absolutely rigid unity of authorship. This supposition we must now abandon, if we are to gain further insight into the problems of the N. T. Apocalypse.

§ 16. *Literary-Critical Method proceeding on the Redactional Hypothesis, the Sources Hypothesis, and the Fragmentary Hypothesis.*

1. *The Redactional Hypothesis.*—The literary criticism of Grotius was resumed by Vogel (1811–16), and later by Bleek, but it was not till Weizsäcker reopened the question in 1882 that the problem was seriously undertaken by his pupil Völter. The views of this writer have passed through at least three stages (*Die Entstehung d. Apok.*,<sup>2</sup> 1885; *Die Offenbarung Johannis—Keine ursprünglich jüdische Apok.*, 1886, *Das Problem d. Apok.*, 1893; *Die Offenbarung Johannis*, 1904), in the course of which he has abandoned a purely Redactional Hypothesis for a Sources Hypothesis plus a redaction.

According to Völter's final views there are in the Apocalypse two sources, which were edited



by a Christian in the reign of Trajan, and subsequently revised in Hadrian's time by another writer. To the last we owe i. 9-iii. 22, in other words, the letters to the Seven Churches and a few other verses; to the editor in Trajan's time passages in twelve of the chapters, amounting in some cases only to single verses or phrases, in others to sections of four verses, six, eight or more. Of the two sources, one — the original Apocalypse — was written by John, whose surname was Mark, in the year 60 A.D., and the other by the heretic Cerinthus in 70 A.D. It is unnecessary here to enter further into the details of Völter's hypothesis, as it has failed to gain the suffrages of critical scholars,—in fact, as a whole it has been rejected on every hand. On the other hand, Völter has shown much insight in his individual criticisms. For instance, he was the first to point out the radical difference in outlook and authorship between vii. 1-8 and vii. 9-17, the original meaning of xiv. 14-20, and the true character of x.-xi. 13 as an interlude introduced between ix. 21 and xi. 14; for originally xi. 14 followed immediately on ix. 21. In 1891, Erbes (*Die Offenbarung Johannis*) maintained that the book was entirely of Christian origin — the groundwork written originally in 62. With this a Caligula-Apoca-

lypse was subsequently incorporated and the entire work revised about 80.

The same method was applied from quite a different standpoint by Vischer (*Die Offenbarung Johannis, eine jüdische Apocalypse in Christlichen Bearbeitung*, 1886; 2nd edition, 1895), whose work was introduced to the notice of the learned world by Harnack. As opposed to Völter and Erbes, who maintained the essentially Christian character of the sources, Vischer was of opinion that the book was essentially Judaistic and not Christian originally, and that it was subsequently edited by a Christian who added the letters to the Seven Churches, and certain words, phrases, verses or passages in chaps. v. 6, 8, 9-14, vi. 1, 16, vii. 9-17, ix. 11, xi. 8*b*, 15, xii. 11, xiii. 9-10, xiv. 1-5, 10, 12, 13, xv. 3, xvi. 15, xvii. 6, 14, xix. 7, 9, 10, 13*b*, xx. 4, 5, 6, xxi. 5*b*-8, 14*b*, xxii. 6-21. Vischer was of opinion that chaps. xi.-xii., which constitute the heart of the Apocalypse, were decisive for this view. According to chap. xi., the Sanctuary of the Jewish Temple was to remain intact, and according to chap. xii., the Messiah was not to be born till the end was at hand, and was to be carried forthwith to heaven and preserved in safety there. This is, Vischer insists, the Synagogue and not the Christian Church that

is speaking. When once the letters to the Seven Churches and the rest of the Christian additions are removed, there remain, according to Vischer, a purely Jewish writing, which formed a unity in itself, and was translated from a Hebrew original. The similarity in the style in the Christian additions to that of the original Jewish section, Vischer explains by the hypothesis that the author of the additions was also the translator of the original.

This clever hypothesis found a wide acceptance at the time; but, as Bousset urges, it cannot be regarded as satisfactory; for Vischer, in the first place, has not succeeded in proving the Jewish character of xi.-xii., nor justified his fundamental thesis as to the unity of the book.

Before passing on, however, we should observe that the same year that Vischer's first edition appeared, Weyland's brochure (*Theol. Studien*, 1886, 454 sqq.; and *Omwerkings-en Compilatie-Hypothesen toegepast op de Apokalypse van Johannes*, 1888) was published, in which a somewhat similar hypothesis was set forth. He, like Vischer, finds in the Apokalypse two Jewish sources. The first was written under Titus, and embraces some verses in chap. i., chaps. iv.-ix., xi. 14-18, some verses in xiv., xv., xvi., chaps. xvii.-xviii., parts of xix.-xxi. and chap. xxii.

The second was written under Nero, and embraces x.-xi. 13, xii., xx. and certain verses in xv., xvi., xix., xx., xxi.

A Christian editor added the Seven Letters, the beginning and end of the book, and a succession of interpolations. The passages attributed to the Christian editor coincide for the most part with those assigned to him by Vischer. Weyland rightly, like Völter, recognises the nature of x.-xi. 13, but has not made any permanent contribution. A few Christian scholars have given their adhesion to Vischer's hypothesis, or adopted similar hypotheses, such as those of Iselin, Rovers and O. Holtzmann; but I venture to predict that Vischer's and kindred hypotheses will ultimately fail to find acceptance among critics of the first order. From an inadequate knowledge of the text such views are still set before the public. Of these I shall briefly discuss the theories of Kohler, Weiss and Von Soden. Kohler, a learned Jewish scholar, in 1905 wrote an article on the Apocalypse in the *Jewish Encyclopædia* (x. 390-396), in which he follows, in the main, in the footsteps of Vischer, and that so closely, that there is only a difference of treatment in detail. Kohler does not assume one Jewish original, but at least two. The first consists of parts of i. 1,

8, 12-19, iv.-ix., and xi. 14-18, and was written in Hebrew before the fall of Jerusalem.

The second, of x. 2-xi. 13, xii.-xiii., xiv. 6-xxii. 6, which was written in Hebrew during the siege and after the fall of Jerusalem. These two apocalypses were in the possession of the Essenes, who joined the Christian Church, and were adapted for Christian use by an early Christian. "Possibly," he writes, "the Seer of Patmos, when writing the letters to the seven churches, or one of his disciples when sending them out, had these apocalypses before him, and incorporated them into his work. This fact," he thinks, "would account for the striking similarities in expression between the first three chapters and the remainder."

I have given Kohler's hypothesis longer consideration than it deserves, because it comes from a Jewish source. Kohler's hypothesis throws no fresh light on the problem, while it fails to apprehend the general unity of thought and style that characterise the book. Like Völter, there is a use here of the Redaction combined with the Sources Hypothesis.

The next critic who calls for notice, *i.e.* Johannes Weiss, is one of the most brilliant of the New Testament scholars of the present day. His works, *Die Offenbarung des Johannis*; *Die Schriften des neuen Testa-*



*ments*, ii. 597-684, published in 1904 and 1908 respectively, cannot any more than Völter's last work or Weyland's treatise be strictly classed under the heading of the Redaction Hypothesis; for, like Völter's and Weyland's, they assume sources.

The first source was the original Johannine Apocalypse, written in the second half of the year 60 A.D., consisting of parts of chap. i., chaps. ii.-vii., some verses in viii. 1-5, 13, chap. ix., xii. 7-12, xiii. 11-18, xiv. 1-5, 14-20, xx.-xxi. 4, xxii. 3-5, 8*a*, 11-13, 14*a*, 15, 16, 20. The second source was Jewish and composite, and issued in the year 70, and consists of x., xi. 1-13, xii. 1-6, 14-17, xiii. 1-7, xv.-xix., xxi. 5-27, xxii. 6, 7, 8*b*, 9. These two sources were put together by an able Christian writer, who by a series of additions and changes brought it into its present form. Although Weiss' theory is rejected on most hands as it stands, his work is full of fine suggestions, and many of these are of permanent value. I might instance one. This is, that originally instead of the seven trumpets there were three woes; for, as Weiss has pointed out, the first four trumpets are not only repetitions of what is found elsewhere in the book, but are also feebler and wholly conventional repetitions. My own study of the

first four trumpets led me independently to this conclusion, and mainly on other grounds. Their diction is against their originality. Like earlier critics, he points out that xi. 14 followed originally on ix. 21. This verse runs: "The second woe is past: behold the third woe cometh soon." But the second woe closed with ix. 21. He also draws attention to the obvious fact that in xxi. 1-8 and in xxi. 9-xxii. 5, the Heavenly Jerusalem is twice described and in different terms.

The last eminent scholar, whose work calls for treatment here, as a representative of the Redaction Hypothesis, and who is a believer in a Jewish background of the Apocalypse, is Von Soden. While J. Weiss is often hesitating and tentative in his statements, Von Soden hardly ever entertains a doubt. His hypothesis (*The Books of the New Testament*, translated 1907, pp. 338-374) is as follows. Nearly three-fourths of the Apocalypse are derived from a Jewish apocalypse, beginning with vi. 12-17 and ending with xxii. 5. From these chapters, of course, he is obliged to delete frequent Christian clauses and verses, either as deliberate insertions of the first editor or of the second (for he assumes a double redaction), or as marginal glosses subsequently incorporated into the text. With regard to the

Jewish Apocalypse, he holds that the simplest hypothesis is to accept it as already existing as a whole: though not quite homogeneous, it exhibits, in his opinion, a wonderful consistency in the development of events, and he declares it to be "the most precious jewel in the glittering necklace of Jewish Apocalypses," and states that it was written between May and August of the year 70 A.D. Twenty years later this book fell into the hands of John, whose devoted adhesion to the faith of Christ involved him in banishment to Patmos. Seeing that the high hopes of the Jewish Apocalypse had not been fulfilled, he re-edited it from a Christian standpoint—prefixing the Seven Letters and the Seven Seals, interpolating certain clauses and verses into the Jewish Apocalypse, and making certain additions in the closing chapter. The book was finally edited by another writer, who added the opening and closing verses i. 1-3 and xxii. 18-20.

This theory of Von Soden is, in my opinion, just as untenable as those of Vischer, Kohler and Weiss, and not half so suggestive as that of the last scholar. And yet there is some truth at the base of all these theories. Jewish elements have been incorporated into the text, but they constitute only a small proportion of

the text—not three-fourths or four-fifths of it, as some of these writers would have us believe; and they do not form the foundation of the book, which is essentially Christian, but only certain portions of the superstructure; and in their new setting they are given, in almost every instance, a new connotation and meaning distinct from what they originally bore.

None of the above theories have gained the assent of scholars, but some of them have made permanent contributions to our knowledge of our author.

ii. *Sources Hypothesis*. — This hypothesis, which has in part been already noticed, was advocated by Weyland, Spitta, Schmidt and Briggs. It assumes the existence of two, three or more independent sources, which were subsequently put together by a redactor.

With Weyland we have already dealt (see p. 62). We must take account of Spitta and Briggs. Spitta's work (*Offenbarung des Johannes*), published in 1889, is the most thoroughgoing and detailed criticism that exists on the subject, but it is artificial and unconvincing in its main lines. First of all, Spitta assumes a primitive Christian Apocalypse, written soon after 60 A.D., consisting of i. 4-6, 9-19, ii.-vi., viii. 1, vii. 9-17. Here, in divergence from Völter, Vischer and

Weyland, he assigns the Seven Letters to the original Apocalyptic, and chaps. iv.-vi. and ii.-iii. to the same author. So far his criticism is, we hold, wholly justifiable. But the rest is untenable in the main. He discovers two Jewish sources,—one, a Trumpet Source, written in the reign of Caligula, and the other a Bowl Source, written in the time of Pompey. All three sources were put together by a Christian redactor in the time of Trajan.

Dr. Briggs' theory (*The Messiah of the Apostles*, 1895, pp. 284-437), to which we now turn, is the most complex that has yet been propounded.

There were originally six independent apocalypses and four different redactions. The first redaction dealt with the Seals, the Trumpets and the Bowls; the second prefixed to this work the Letters to the Seven Churches; the third added the two independent apocalypses on the Beast and the Dragon; while the fourth and last re-edited the third with many additions throughout.

I have a great admiration for Dr. Briggs' breadth of scholarship and great versatility, but it is hard to take his theory seriously. It is open in an overwhelming degree to every objection that can be brought against the use of the Sources Hypothesis. Moreover, like all



the works classed under this heading, it breaks down hopelessly in the face of the general linguistic unity of the book, which the Philological Method has already in part brought to light.

In fact, what is now needed is a further development of his Philological Method, or, in other words, a more exact study of the style, the vocabulary and the grammar of the Apocalyptic. So far as the grammar goes, the book is absolutely unique in all Greek literature. It is true, indeed, that Bousset has given special attention to the study of the grammar, and his contribution in this respect is deserving of high praise. But it has failed to take account of many of the most characteristic features of the book. To some of these, which it has been my good fortune to discover, I will draw attention later. In the meantime, I will here give a few characteristic constructions that belong to the book as a whole, most of which have already been recognised.

The numerals, as a rule, follow after their noun, unless preceded by the article. Thus *δέκα* is always postpositive except in xvii. 12, where a source is used. *έπτά* is likewise postpositive: in a few cases, where it is prepositive, the passages are suspicious on other grounds. *πέντε* and *έξ* are postpositive, whereas *τέσσαρες* is prepositive and *δύο* either.

Again, the phrase "inhabitants of the earth," which is of frequent occurrence, always has the form *οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν γῆν* except in two verses, which on other grounds come from another hand. Still more remarkable is our author's extraordinary use of the very frequent phrase "he that sitteth on the throne." When it is in the nominative or accusative, *ὁ καθήμενος* or *τὸν καθήμενον* is always followed by *ἐπὶ τὸν θρόνον*. But if it is in the genitive, then the form is *τοῦ καθημένου ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου*, and if in the dative, *τῷ καθημένῳ ἐπὶ τῷ θρόνῳ*. Again, the phrase "on their foreheads" is either *ἐπὶ τὸν μέτωπον αὐτῶν* or *ἐπὶ τῶν μετώπων αὐτῶν*.

Finally, Hebraisms are to be found everywhere. Indeed, it would be possible to devote several chapters to the Hebraisms and the peculiar late Greek, and non-Greek constructions that characterise, not one-fourth, or one-third of the Apocalypse as against the rest, but that characterise the Apocalypse from its beginning to its close. In fact, it exhibits a marvellous unity of style *as a whole*, and this unity is manifested not in normal constructions, but in abnormal. I emphasise the words *as a whole*; for not a few passages betray signs of another hand, or of sources whether Hebrew or Greek. It is on the ground of this general

unity of style in diction and construction that we are obliged to reject all such violent hypotheses as those of Spitta, Vischer, J. Weiss, Von Soden and the like. The problem of the Apocalypse cannot be solved either by the Redaction Hypothesis, or by the Sources Hypothesis, or by a combination of the two. Notwithstanding, these two schools have brought many invaluable facts to light. They have shown incontrovertibly that within the Apocalypse there are certain verses, passages and sections which are inconsistent with the tone and character of the whole. In order, therefore, to account for a general unity of plan and diction, and the no less assured existence of certain verses and sections at variance with their adjoining contexts and the tone of the entire work, we must have recourse to the third hypothesis—the Fragment Hypothesis.

iii. *The Fragment Hypothesis.*—To Weizsäcker we owe the first statement of this theory in his suggestion that, while the book is a unity, the author made free use of other materials. These in the first and second editions of his *Apostolic Age* (1886 and 1892) he specifies as vii. 1-8, xi. 1-13, xii.-xiii., xvii. This view has been further worked out by Sabatier (*Les origines littéraires de l'apoc. de St. Jean*, 1888), Schoen, and Bousset, and

adopted by Porter in America and by Scott and Moffatt in this country.<sup>1</sup>

The labours of these scholars show that, while the book is the production of one author, all its parts are not of the same date, nor are they one and all his first-hand creation—in fact, they have made the assumption of an *absolute* unity in the details of the Apocalypse a practical impossibility. Incongruities are brought to light not only between certain sections and the main scheme of the book, but between these and their immediate contexts. These sections are vii. 1–8, xi. 1–13, xii., xiii., xvii., xviii., xx., xxi. 9–xxii. 5.

We shall for a moment pause on vii. 1–8, the sealing of the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel. This is probably a fragment of a Jewish-Christian Apocalypse, or a recast of a Jewish Apocalypse. First of all, it is strongly particularistic: it limits the elect of God to these Jewish Christians. Observe that Judah is placed first, as we find in the Christian interpolations in the Testaments of the XII Patriarchs. This is against all the O.T. lists, unless where geographical or like considerations intervene. No Jew after 250 B.C., unless he had become a Christian, would have placed

<sup>1</sup> Bruston's work, *Les origines de l'apocalypse*, 1888, comes under this hypothesis, according to Bousset.

Judah before Levi. Its independent origin has been inferred also by Spitta and subsequent scholars, from the fact that the four winds, which in vii. 1 are said to be held fast, lest they should break in elemental fury on land and sea, are not let loose nor referred to in the subsequent narrative.

Thus these verses belong to some original Jewish-Christian writing, and each of the above statements had a natural meaning in its original context. But in their present context they have lost their original meaning. The sealing means to the original writer preservation from physical evils and death; but it cannot bear this meaning in the Apocalypse. What it does mean we shall investigate further on.

I have given this one instance of the critical method of dealing with the text. Time will not admit of any such further detailed examination. But certain of the above sections, which are really foreign to the context, cannot be explained from any Literary-Critical method. These are found in chaps. xi., xii., xiii., xvii. The symbols and myths which appear in these chapters are not the creation of the writer, but are borrowed from tradition, and that a tradition not always necessarily Jewish. In some instances the materials are too foreign to his subject to lend themselves to his purpose



without the help of violent expedients. For the elucidation of these foreign elements a new method—the Traditional-Historical—is necessary, a method which we owe to the brilliant scholar Gunkel.

§ 17. *Traditional-Historical Method.*

Gunkel in his work, *Schöpfung und Chaos* (1895), opened up new lines of investigation. He shows that tradition largely fixes the forms of figures and symbols in Apocalyptic. Each new apocalypse is to some extent a reinterpretation of traditional material, which the writer uses not wholly freely, but with reverence, from the conviction that it contained the key to the mysteries of the present and the future. On the other hand, since much of the material of an apocalypse is reinterpreted tradition, it is necessary to distinguish between its original meaning and the new turn given to it in the Apocalypse. Occasionally details in the transmitted material are unintelligible even to our author, and in these cases he omits any reference to them in his interpretation. The presence of such details is strong evidence of the writer's use of foreign material.

§ 18. *Religious-Historical Method.*

Together with the *Traditional-Historical*,

Gunkel combines the *Religious-Historical*. From the fact that a certain statement or doctrine in the Apocalypse is not Christian, we cannot forthwith conclude to its Jewish origin. Materials from other religions, whether Babylonian, Egyptian or Greek, are to be found in xii. and other chapters. These materials have, it is true, been more or less assimilated, but traces of their non-Christian and non-Jewish origin still survive.<sup>1</sup>

In dependence on the above methods the best modern commentary was published by Bousset in 1896, in which many fresh contributions were made, and a second edition of this work in 1906. The same lines of interpretation are followed in the main by Pfeleiderer in his second edition of his *Urchristenthum*, and by Holtzmann in the third edition of his Commentary, published five years ago with the assistance of W. Bauer. In our own country the above results have to a considerable extent been elaborated by Porter in Hastings' *Bible Dictionary* and *The Messages of the Apocalyptic Writers*, and popularised by Scott in a small commentary. Professor Sanday

<sup>1</sup> Valuable material will be found on these questions in Clemen's *Religionsgeschichtliche Erklärung des Neuen Testaments*, 1909—an English edition of which has recently been published by T. and T. Clark.

has published a short study in the *Journal of Theological Studies*, and Moffatt an admirable commentary in the *Expositor's Greek Testament*. By means of the work of the past century, and particularly of the last fifteen years, the Apocalypse has ceased to be the hopeless riddle that the sanest and greatest scholars of earlier centuries held it to be, and "has quickly passed," as Holtzmann puts it, "into the position of one of the most valuable documents for the primitive age of the Christian Church."

Notwithstanding, the land is not yet wholly possessed. Some independent problems still await fuller solution, and amongst them this: Are the visions in the Apocalypse the genuine results of spiritual experience, or are they artificial products? Weizsäcker unhesitatingly advocates the latter view. But the serious students of later times cannot follow in his footsteps. The writer's belief in his prophetic office and his obvious conviction of the inviolable sanctity of his message postulate the existence of actual spiritual experiences behind his visions, and the only difficulty lies in determining to what extent such experience does underlie the revelations of the Apocalypse.

In bringing this section of our studies to a close, I may add that the author of this

great book has, despite the burden of an all but overwhelming tradition and the use of a style which sets every canon of correct writing at defiance, but which nevertheless observes laws of its own, bequeathed to mankind a κτῆμα ἐς αἰεί—an imperishable possession, the true worth of which lies in the splendid energy of its faith, in the unfaltering certainty that God's own cause is at issue now and here and must ultimately prevail, and that the cause of Jesus Christ is inseparably linked therewith, and the main aim of which, as is clear from every page, is to emphasise the overwhelming worth of things spiritual as contrasted with things material, and in the next place to glorify martyrdom, to encourage the faithful to face death with constancy, nay more, with rapturous joy.

“Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.”

## CHAPTER III.

### THE HEBRAIC STYLE OF THE APOCALYPSE.

*The abnormal type of the Greek of the Apocalypse has been recently said to be characteristic of the vernacular Greek of this period, and the existence of Hebraisms strictly so called denied. These positions are untenable. The style of the Apocalypse is absolutely unique in all Greek literature, while linguistically it is more Hebraic than the Septuagint.*

THE Hebraic style of the Apocalypse has always been freely acknowledged till the present generation. But owing to the researches of Thumb, Deissmann and Moulton, who have succeeded in bringing to light such a mass of fresh knowledge on the vernacular Greek which prevailed before and after the Christian era, a new attitude on this question has been assumed by all scholars in some degree and by some scholars in a most extravagant degree. Thus, to take one of the latter school, Professor Moulton (*Gramm. of N.T. Greek*<sup>1</sup>, p. 8 sq.) affirms that



“even the Greek of the Apocalypse itself does not seem to owe any of its blunders to Hebraism. The author’s uncertain use of cases is obvious to the most casual reader. . . . We find him perpetually indifferent to concord. But the less educated papyri give us plentiful parallels from a field whose Semitism cannot be suspected. . . . Apart from places where he may be definitely translating a Semitic document, there is no reason to believe that his grammar would have been materially different had he been a native of Oxyrhynchus, assuming the extent of Greek education the same.”

This is without doubt an extreme statement of the case, and Professor Swete (*Apocalypse*<sup>2</sup>, ii. p. cxxiv, note) rightly rejoins: that “it is precarious to compare a *literary*<sup>1</sup> document with a collection of personal and business letters, accounts, and other ephemeral writings; slips in word-formation or in syntax, which are to be expected in the latter, are phenomenal in the former, and if they find a place there, *can only be attributed to life-long habits of thought*.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, it remains to be considered how far the quasi-Semitic colloquialisms of the papyri are themselves due to the influence of the large Greek-speaking Jewish population of the Delta.”

<sup>1</sup> The italics are due to the present writer.

My own studies, which have extended over more than 2000 years of Greek literature, and have concerned themselves specially with Hellenistic Greek, so far as this Greek was used as a vehicle of Jewish thought, have led me to adopt a very different conclusion on this question, and this is, that *the linguistic character of the Apocalypse is absolutely unique.*

Its language differs from that of the LXX and the other versions of the Old Testament, from the Greek of the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, and from that of the Papyri. Of course, it has points in common with all these phases of later Greek, but nevertheless it possesses a very distinct character of its own. No literary document of the Greek world exhibits such a vast multitude of solecisms. It would almost seem that the author of the Apocalypse deliberately set at defiance the grammarian and the ordinary rules of syntax. That he has done so successfully is unquestionable. But it appears to me that such a description would do him injustice. He had no such intention. He is full of his subject, and like the great Hebrew prophets of old is a true artist. His object is to drive home his message with all the powers at his command, and this he does in some of the sublimest passages in all literature. Naturally with such an object in view he has

no thought of consistently breaking any rule of syntax. How, then, are we to explain the unbridled licence of his Greek constructions? The reason clearly is that, while he writes in Greek, he thinks in Hebrew, and the thought has naturally affected the vehicle of expression. But this is not all. He never mastered Greek idiomatically—even the Greek of his own period. To him very many of its particles were apparently unknown, and the multitudinous shades of meaning which they expressed in the various combinations into which they entered, were never grasped at all, or only in a very inadequate degree.

In fact, the language of his adoption was not for him a normalised and rigid medium of utterance—nay rather, it was still in a fluent condition, and so he used it freely, remodelling its syntactical forms and launching forth into unusual or unheard of expressions with a view to the better setting forth of his ideas; and that he achieved his end, even the most fastidious of Greek scholars must admit, so far as they succeed in understanding his work. For in its own literature the book stands absolutely without a rival, while in the literature of all time it has deservedly won for itself a place in the van.

One obvious result of the inherent greatness and sublimity of the work, despite the sole-

cistic character of its form, is that perhaps no book in any literature suffers so little by translation; for of necessity the bulk of its irregularities in syntax must vanish in the process of translation, while its essential greatness alike in thought and expression remains. But this, again, is attended by an unavoidable drawback for the non-Greek reader; for in the process of translation the bulk of the idiosyncrasies of style, which differentiate this book from all other Jewish and Christian works, and especially from the Fourth Gospel, must inevitably disappear.

I must now justify the general statements which have just been made, though, of course, only a very small part of the evidence can be put forward on the present occasion.

Even this evidence will, I hope, be sufficient to produce a conviction that the style is Hebraic in character. If time and opportunity permitted, it would be easy to prove that the style of the Apocalypse is more Hebraic than that of the LXX.

*Hebraisms in the Greek text of the Apocalypse, to some of which exceptional parallels can be found in vernacular Greek but not to others.*

1. First of all, it might be recognised as a

rule that our author follows the Hebrew idiom according to which the word or phrase, which stands in apposition to a noun in an oblique case, is put in the nominative. Such solecisms are found occasionally in the LXX, but what is a rare phenomenon in this Greek version of the Old Testament is actually a recognised idiom in the Greek text of the Apocalypse. Our author has, in fact, adopted a Hebrew idiom into his Greek, and naturalised it there, as in i. 5, ii. 13, 20, iii. 12, vii. 4, viii. 9, ix. 14, xiv. 12, 14. He does not, it is true, always abandon the legitimate Greek construction in such cases, but he does so sufficiently often to legitimate our recognition of it as a marked characteristic of his style.

Of the above passages I must quote two or three. Thus in i. 5 we have ἀπὸ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ὁ μάρτυς ὁ πιστός instead of ἀπὸ Ἰ. Χ. τοῦ μάρτυρος τοῦ πιστοῦ = "from Jesus Christ the faithful witness." In ii. 20 we have ἀφεῖς τὴν γυναῖκα Ἰεζάβελ, ἣ λέγουσα ἑαυτὴν προφήτιν, instead of τὴν λέγουσαν ἑαυτὴν προφήτιν = "thou sufferest the woman Jezebel which calleth herself a prophetess." Again, in iii. 12, τὸ ὄνομα τῆς πόλεως . . . ἣ καταβαίνουσα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ = "the name of the city . . . which cometh down from heaven." Now that a Jew could naturally and unwittingly fall



into this solecism, when using an inflected language other than his own, is illustrated by Professor Nestle (*Textual Criticism of the Greek Testament*, p. 330 n.), who quotes the following gem from Salomon Bär in his translation of the Massoretic note at the end of the Books of Samuel (Leipzig, 1892, p. 158), “ad mortem Davidis rex Israelis.” This is a perfect illustration of what occurs frequently in our text. The same solecism occurs in the Greek translation of the Old Testament. Cf. Ezek. xxiii. 12 (τοὺς υἱοὺς τῶν Ἀσσυρίων . . . ἵππεῖς ἵππαζόμενοι ἐφ’ ἵππων—A).

2. Next, a noticeable Hebraism is the indeclinable use of λέγων or λέγοντες = the Hebrew דָּבַר. Thus in v. 11 we have φωνὴν ἀγγέλων . . . λέγοντες instead of λέγουσαν or λεγόντων.

Again, in xiv. 6 sq. there is an extraordinary instance of this usage, where the phrase ἄλλον ἄγγελον is followed by three participles depending upon it, the first two of which (πετόμενον and ἔχοντα) are rightly in the accusative, but the third (λέγων) is in the nominative; in other words, the indeclinable use of λέγων. Other instances occur in iv. 1, xi. 1, 15, xix. 6 (Westcott and Hort, margin). This solecism, owing to the Hebrew background, occurs in the LXX; cf. Gen. xv. 1, xxii. 20, xxxviii. 13, xlv. 16, xlvi. 20, etc.).

3. Next, there is the *nominativus pendens*, iii. 12, ὁ νικῶν, ποιήσω αὐτόν; in vi. 8, ὁ καθήμενος ἐπάνω αὐτοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ ὁ θάνατος—a very frequent construction in Hebrew, and not unattested in the rest of the N.T. (cf. Blass, *Gram. N.T. Greek*, Eng. trans., 283).

4. The oblique forms of the personal pronoun are added pleonastically, as in Hebrew, to relatives: iii. 8 (ἦν οὐδεὶς δύναται κλείσαι αὐτήν) xii. 6, 14, xiii. 8, or to participles ii. 7 (τῷ νικῶντι δώσω αὐτῷ), iii. 12, vi. 4.

That exceptionally such idioms are found in the vernacular Greek, and in a few cases in classical Greek, does not make against the fact that they are here due to Semitic influence; since, as the rest of the evidence proves, our text is more Semitic in character than the bulk of the LXX.

5. The absence of the use of the instrumental dative, the place of which is supplied by ἐν. This usage is to be met with in vernacular Greek also. It belongs, nevertheless, to the Hebraic colouring of our text.

6. Another Semiticism in our author's style is his use of the participle as a finite verb. This usage is fairly frequent in Hebrew, while in Aramaic it is practically the normal usage.

It is quite true that in late vernacular

Greek this usage is attested in a few instances (see Moulton, *Gram.*<sup>1</sup> 223). Moulton also recognises its existence in Rom. v. 11, xii. 6; Heb. viii. 10, x. 16; and Blass in 2 Cor. v. 12, vii. 5.

While we grant the occurrence of this vernacular idiom in these cases, it does not do away with the fact that, when the participle is used as a finite verb in a manifestly Hebraic Greek text such as that of the Apocalypse, it is to be regarded as a Hebraism. As such, therefore, we regard ἔχων in x. 2 and xxi. 12, 14, and also in xii. 2, which should be translated: "And she was with child, and cried in her travail and pain to be delivered" (= יהיא ללדת והיא חוזה ומחבלה<sup>1</sup>). The author being accustomed to the use of the participle as a finite verb in his native idiom, transfers this usage into the language of his adoption.

The evidence so far appears sufficient to prove the Hebraic character of the text. It is true that to most of the individual idioms analogous uses may be found exceptionally in vernacular Greek, but that such an accumulation of exceptions should be brought together

<sup>1</sup> These two participles are found together in Ps. vii. 15. If the retroversion is right, possibly מחבלה is corrupt for מיהלה = "hoping." In that case we should have "cried out, being in travail and hoping to be delivered."

within such narrow compass in a literary work must appear incredible to a sound judgment.

*Other and still stronger grounds for the  
Hebraic or Semitic character of the text.*

1. All but universally our author uses not the LXX but the Hebrew text of the Old Testament.

2. The order and structure of his language is thoroughly Hebraic. Thus, with the exception of a section or two, which on quite distinct grounds we conclude were borrowed from other sources, the verb as a rule comes first, then the subject, and next the object. This Hebraic order of the sentence is wholly abandoned for the normal Greek order in chap. xi.

3. The parallelism of the style is too obvious to be ignored. The author repeatedly breaks forth into verse in which the parallelism of Hebrew poetry is carefully observed.

Large sections of the book were written in stanzas of three or four lines each. Their structure is so clear that by means of it we can at times detect glosses. Thus, to take an example, it is possible to recover the original form of the vision in iv. 2-8, which appears to have been composed of four stanzas of four lines each and to have read as follows :

I.

- 2 And behold there was a throne set in heaven,  
 And on the throne was one seated,  
 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper stone  
 and a sardius,  
 And (there was) a rainbow round about the throne  
 like an emerald to look upon.

II.

- 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and  
 voices and thunders :  
 6 And before the throne there was as it were a glassy  
 sea like unto crystal,  
 And round about the throne were four living  
 creatures,  
 Full of eyes before and behind.

III.

- 7 And the first creature was like a lion,  
 And the second creature was like an ox,  
 And the third creature had a face as of a man,  
 And the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.

IV.

- 8 And the four creatures had each six wings,  
 And they rested not day and night singing :  
 Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,  
 Which was, and which is, and which is to come.

4. The co-ordination of the participle in one of the oblique cases and the finite verb, which is not found, so far as I am aware, in any form of true vernacular Greek, is in Hebrew essentially an idiom, and that a common one.



In the New Testament outside the Apocalypse it is attested at all events in 2 John 2, τὴν ἀλήθειαν τὴν μένουσαν ἐν ἡμῖν καὶ μεθ' ἡμῶν ἔσται; Col. i. 26.<sup>1</sup> In these two passages the peculiar syntax, so far as I am aware, cannot be explained from any eccentricity or blunder in the vernacular Greek; for in these we have a dependent participle (in the accusative and dependent on the article) resolved into an indicative in the following sentence. Now, as Driver (*Moods and Tenses*<sup>3</sup>, 163) writes, "it is a common custom with Hebrew writers, after employing a participle, to change the construction, and, if they wish to subjoin other verbs which logically should be participles . . . to pass to the use of the finite verb."<sup>2</sup> We

<sup>1</sup> John i. 32 is not to be taken as instance of this idiom; see Abbott, *Johannine Gram.* p. 335.

A form of this idiom is found in 1 Cor. vii. 13, γυνή, ἣτις ἔχει ἄνδρα ἄπιστον καὶ οὗτος συνευδοκεῖ, where the last three words would in ordinary Greek be καὶ συνευδοκοῦντα, *i.e.* "a woman who hath an husband unbelieving but content to dwell with her." Here St. Paul's Greek would represent idiomatic Hebrew (or *והוא רצה (הוא רצה) מאמין ורצה בעל בלתי מאמין*). In Heb. viii. 10, x. 16, the participle is not in the oblique case. Moreover, in these passages the Greek participle here either represents a participle in the Hebrew where a finite verb stands now in the Massoretic, or it is used as the finite verb, as occasionally in the vernacular Greek.

<sup>2</sup> In the present instance I am limiting our consideration to the co-ordination of the participle in an oblique case and the finite verb, in order to avoid the possibility of an explanation of this idiom from vernacular Greek.

have here the natural explanation of these two passages so far as the syntax goes, and if this is so, as I am convinced it is, the rendering of the Authorised Version is right in both and the Revised Version wrong. So far for this usage outside the Apocalypse. But now, turning to the Apocalypse, what do we find there? Is this idiom an isolated one? By no means. It occurs seven times, and is relatively of far more frequent occurrence than in the LXX; for the LXX appears only occasionally to reproduce this idiom literally. We might compare Isa. v. 8, 23, Ezek. xxii. 3, where the Hebrew is translated into idiomatic Greek, while in Gen. xxvii. 33, Isa. xiv. 17, the Hebrew idiom is reproduced in the Greek.

In the Apocalypse, on the other hand, it emerges in the first chapter in vers. 5, 6; and four times in the chapters that follow, *i.e.* in ii. 2, 9, 20, vii. 14.<sup>1</sup> In every one of these passages the Revised Version rendering is wrong and that of the Authorised Version right,

<sup>1</sup> It is not improbable that in iii. 7 we have a Hebraism repeated twice: *τάδε λέγει ὁ ἅγιος . . . ὁ ἀνοίγων καὶ οὐδεὶς κλείει καὶ κλείων καὶ οὐδεὶς ἀνοίγει*. Here the Greek can be retranslated literally into Hebrew, but whereas it is Hebrew idiom, *הפתח ואין סגור והסגור ואין פתח*, it cannot be said to be Greek. The sense of the Greek is, "Who openeth so that no one closeth, and closeth so that no one openeth" (*ὁ ἀνοίγων ὥστε μηδένα κλείειν καὶ κλείων ὥστε μηδένα ἀνοίγειν*).

save in one where its text is untenable. The latter, perhaps through following the ancient versions—the Syriac and Latin—consciously or unconsciously reproduced correctly the Hebrew idiom underlying the Greek. Let me give examples. In i. 5, 6 the Greek runs: τῷ ἀγαπῶντι (A.V. ἀγαπήσαντι) ἡμᾶς καὶ λύσαντι ἡμᾶς ἐκ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐποίησεν ἡμᾶς βασιλείαν (A.V. βασιλεῖς).

This the Authorised Version renders: "Unto him that loved us . . . and hath made us kings": and rightly, for it has treated the finite verb exactly as if it were a participle, according to the Hebrew idiom. Let us now turn to the Revised Version. Its reading is: "Unto him that loveth us . . . and he made us to be a kingdom." Our first criticism of this rendering is that it is not English. The phrase, "Unto him that loveth us," stands without any grammatical connection with the rest of the sentence. In the next place, it is not a translation of the text, as we have already recognised. If anything is to be supplied before "made," it should be "that" and not "he." "Unto him that loveth us . . . and that made," etc. Next, in ii. 2 the Greek τοὺς λέγοντας ἑαυτοὺς ἀποστόλους καὶ οὐκ εἰσὶν is rightly rendered by the Authorised Version, "which say they are apostles and are not."

Here again the Revised Version wrongly renders, "which call themselves apostles and they are not." The same construction recurs in ii. 9, where the Authorised Version is again right and the Revised Version wrong. The next instance in ii. 20 is very obvious: *τὴν γυναῖκα Ἰεζάβελ, ἣ λέγουσα ἑαυτὴν προφήτιν καὶ διδάσκει*. Here, just as in the preceding cases, the verb *διδάσκει*, "teaches," ought to be a participle in idiomatic Greek, but the writer has reproduced his own Hebrew idiom literally. The text of the Authorised Version is here very corrupt, and accordingly its rendering is not available. As regards the Revised Version, the text it followed is the best, but its rendering is just as incorrect as elsewhere. Instead, therefore, of translating "which calleth herself a prophetess and she teacheth," with the Revised Version, we should translate "which calleth herself a prophetess and teacheth," as if it were *ἣ λέγουσα . . . καὶ διδάσκουσα*.

There is one more instance of this idiom, but the participle is not in an oblique case, *i.e.* in vii. 14: *οἱ ἐρχόμενοι ἐκ τῆς θλίψεως τῆς μεγάλης καὶ ἔπλυναν τὰς στολὰς αὐτῶν*.

Here the finite verb *ἔπλυναν* is co-ordinated with the participle *ἐρχόμενοι*, and should be translated as if it were a participle dependent on the article. Accordingly the text is to be

rendered: "These are they who came out of the great tribulation and washed their robes." The Authorised Version is here on the whole right, but the Revised Version has again misrendered this idiom as follows: "These are they which came out of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes."

From these criticisms it is not to be inferred that the Revised Version is elsewhere inferior to the Authorised Version in accuracy. This, of course, is not the case. The above misrenderings are due to the Revisers treating the Apocalypse as if it were firstly and lastly a Greek book written by a Greek. This particular Hebraism in the Apocalypse has not, so far as I am aware, ever been recognised heretofore.

5. There are pure Hebraisms in the text to which no analogy can be found in the vernacular Greek. I will adduce only three. In xvii. 8 there is the use of the singular *ὄνομα*, "name," instead of the plural *ὀνόματα*, "names," where all the multitude of the lost is referred to, is a Hebrew idiom. Hence we must render, "they whose names have not been written in the book of life," not "they whose name," as in the Revised Version; for this is not English, any more than it was Greek. Next, in xii. 5 we have the extraordinary statement, "she was delivered of a son, a man child" (or "a male").



Now neither in Greek nor English can a son be anything but a man child. To add such a clause after the term "son" would be absurd. But this is not so in Hebrew. The plural בנים (= "sons") means occasionally "male and female children" (Gen. iii. 16; Exod. xxi. 5, xxii. 23). Hence in Josh. xvii. 2 we have the expression "the sons of Manasses, the males" (בני מנשה), and in Jer. xx. 15, "A son, a male (or 'man child'—בן זכר) is born to thee." In this last passage we have exactly the same expression as in our text.

The third pure Hebraism is the very remarkable use our author makes of ὡς, which he places before either the subject of the verb or its object with the meaning—"the likeness of." No attempt, so far as I am aware, has been made to explain this use. But its origin seems to me to be quite clear. It is not Greek, but it is used by our author as the equivalent of the Hebrew כִּי. In the LXX it is used in this wholly non-Greek sense as a translation of the Hebrew prefix (cf. Num. ix. 15; Dan. x. 18). Thus ὡς στέφανοι in ix. 7 of our text means "the likeness of crowns," or "what was like crowns"; in xix. 1, ὡς φωνὴν μεγάλην, "the likeness of a mighty voice." The English versions, "as it were crowns" and "as it were a mighty voice," will do for

purposes of translation, but they conceal the origin of the idiom. This usage is very frequent in the Apocalypse. Possibly we have here also the explanation of the solecism ὅμοιον υἱὸν ἀνθρώπου, "like a son of man," which occurs twice in our text (i. 13, xiv. 14). Now ὅμοιος is the equivalent of ὡς in this sense, as we know from 1 Enoch xviii. 13 (ὡς ὄρη μεγάλα) compared with xxi. 3 (ὁμοίους ὄρεσιν μεγάλοις). Hence it may here take the same construction as ὡς; for ὡς does not affect the case of the noun which it precedes.

*Passages in the Apocalypse that require to be translated into Hebrew in order to be understood.*

We have now come to the last class of evidence which I propose to lay before you in favour of the Hebraic character of our text. If this evidence is valid, it is the strongest that can be advanced. In the course of my study of the text of the Apocalypse, I have come to the conclusion that not only does the author think in Hebrew, but that occasionally he also translates already existing Hebrew documents into Greek. We have already had good grounds for the former conclusion in the evidence just brought before you. I will now further substantiate this evidence by a study

of the remarkable passage in x. 1, where it reads as follows: "And I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, arrayed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire." Now all this verse is perfectly clear save the last clause—*οἱ πόδες αὐτοῦ ὡς στύλοι πυρός* = "his feet were like pillars of fire." Who ever heard such an extraordinary simile? Feet like pillars of fire! There must be some error here, and yet no scholar has hitherto called attention to it. The mistake, if there is a mistake, must lie either in *πόδες* = "feet" or *στύλοι* = "pillars." Now, whereas I can discover no corruption underlying *στύλοι*, it is not difficult to see how the term *πόδες* came to be placed here. The expression in Cant. v. 15, "his legs were like pillars of marble," supplies in fact the idea that should stand here. The Hebrew word *לֵג*, which normally means "foot," has also the meaning of "leg" in 1 Sam. xvii. 6;<sup>1</sup> Deut. xxviii. 57;<sup>2</sup> Isa. vii. 20. It is so rendered by the LXX in Ezek. i. 7, xvi. 25. A derivative of this word is rendered by *τὰ σκέλη* in Dan. x. 6, by Theodotion.

Furthermore, in Palestinian Aramaic it is

<sup>1</sup> So, rightly, LXX, Pesh. and Vulg.

<sup>2</sup> So, rightly, LXX and Vulg.

used as meaning the "thigh" of an animal, being a translation of כַּרְעִים; cf. Exod. xxix. 17; Lev. i. 13, viii. 21, ix. 14. In Arabic this word means either "foot" or "leg." From these facts we see that, while our author had in his mind the word רגל, he attached to it not its ordinary meaning "foot," but its less usual one "leg," and that he transferred this secondary meaning of the Hebrew word to its Greek equivalent. It might appear at first sight that he was wholly unjustified in supposing that the primary and secondary meanings of the Hebrew word, *i.e.* "foot" and "leg," belonged also to the Greek word; and yet it is possible that this secondary meaning of ποῦς (when used as a rendering of the Hebrew) was not unexampled at the time. For in the LXX it appears as an equivalent of כַּרְעִים, "thigh," as we have already observed in Ex. xxix. 17; Lev. i. 9, 13, viii. 21, ix. 14.

From the above evidence we conclude that we should render the clause in the Apocalypse: "His legs were like pillars of fire."<sup>1</sup>

The next passage seems to postulate an actual Hebrew background. In ii. 22 it is said of the woman Jezebel: "Behold, I cast her

<sup>1</sup> In Dan. x. 6 the rendering should most probably follow that of Theodotion: "his arms and his legs were like in colour to burnished brass."

into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation." Now, how are we to explain the punishment that is designed by these words: "Behold, I cast her into a bed"? Ramsay and Moulton take the word *κλίνη* here to denote a banqueting couch; but that this is wrong, will be seen as we proceed. The *κλίνη* is a bed of sickness or suffering, following as the due meed of her licentious teaching.

This interpretation has been rightly put forward by several scholars; but, so far as I know, they have not explained how it can be justified. Now, if we retranslate it into Hebrew, we recognise that we have here a Hebrew idiom. In Hebrew (נפל למשכב), "to fall upon a bed" means "to take to one's bed," *i.e.* to become ill (cf. Ex. xxi. 18); and "to cast upon a bed" means "to cast upon a bed of illness." This idiom is found in 1 Macc. i. 5, vi. 8 (*ἔπεσε ἐπὶ τὴν κοίτην*), and Jud. viii. 3 (*ἔπεσε ἐπὶ τὴν κλίνην*), which books are translated from the Hebrew. Thus, if we wish to give the passage its true significance, we should read:

"Behold, I cast her on a bed of illness (or 'suffering')

And those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation."<sup>1</sup>

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הנני מפיל אֶתָּהּ לְמִשְׁכָּבִי  
וְאֵת הַמְּנַאֲפִים אֶתָּהּ בְּעִרָה גְדֹלָה.



I will take only one passage more, *i.e.* xiii. 11. In this passage we shall go still further than we have gone before. Heretofore we have considered cases in which difficulties arose, owing to the fact that our author was construing his Hebrew thought and diction into Greek. In this passage, and it does not stand alone, we have a piece of Greek which seems not to admit of explanation, except on the hypothesis that it is a translation from the Hebrew, and that the Hebrew was corrupt. Other passages in the chapter postulate the same hypothesis. The passage immediately before us is as follows:—

“And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth,  
And he had two horns like unto a lamb;  
And he spake as a dragon.”

Now we may at once premise that the generally accepted and indeed the right interpretation of this second beast is that it represented the heathen priesthood in Asia Minor, which had for its office the worship of the Roman Emperor. In the next place, it has been conjectured by several scholars that the text of this chapter presupposes a Hebrew original. My own studies have led me to the same conclusion. Let us turn, now, to the passage before us. The second line, *i.e.* “he had two horns like unto a lamb,” may be suggested—

at all events it is illustrated—by Matt. vii. 15: “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.” The words therefore indicate the mild appearance of the second beast: he had two horns like unto a lamb. But what is to be made of the clause that follows, “and he spake as a dragon”? There are no means of explaining it. A dragon does not speak. Is the passage hopeless then? By no means, in my opinion, as I feel confident we can reconstruct the text by translation into Hebrew. Thus *καὶ ἐλάλει ὡς δράκων* = *והדר כחנין*. Here, first of all, the translator should have read the last word of the unpointed Hebrew as *פִּתְנָן* = “as the dragon,” *i.e.* Satan, and not as *פְּתָנָן*, “as a dragon,” which is meaningless. Next, *הדר* is corrupt for *האדר*, exactly as in 2 Chron. xxii. 10, where the Hebrew wrongly reads, “Athaliah spake with all the seed royal,” instead of “Athaliah slew all the seed royal,” as in 2 Kings xi. 1.

A corruption that has crept into the Canonical text of the Old Testament might well occur in the anonymous Hebrew document behind chap. xiii. Hence instead of *καὶ ἐλάλει*, “and he spake,” we should read *καὶ ἀπόλλυε* or *καὶ ἦν ἀπολλύων* = “and he was a destroyer,” or “an apollyon.” This phrase recalls the name

given to Satan in ix. 11, "his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he hath the name Apollyon."

Satan was *the* Apollyon, but the second beast was *an* apollyon.

Thus the text read originally : "And he was a destroyer (or "apollyon) like the dragon." That he justified this title is seen in ver. 15, where it is stated that he caused all that did not worship the image of the first beast to be put to death.

To sum up, then, the entire verse is to be read as follows :

"And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth,  
And he had two horns like a lamb ;  
But he was a destroyer like the dragon."

## CHAPTER IV.

### REVELATION VII.-IX.

It may seem strange that I have chosen to deal with chaps. vii.-ix. in this and the last lecture rather than with the first three or the fourth and fifth chapters, or such notable chapters as xii. and xiii. In all of these, it is quite true, there is still room for further investigation: but though the first three chapters, the fourth chapter and its immediate sequel, as well as the twelfth and thirteenth, have each important problems connected with them, their meaning is not *on the whole* difficult; nor have they been so grossly misunderstood as chaps. vii.-ix. by practically the whole body of interpreters for the past 1600 years or more.

*Chap. vii. has been misunderstood from the earliest centuries of the Christian era, and yet contains the key to the right interpretation of some of the immediately following chapters.*

It is just because chap. vii. is one of the

most difficult chapters in the Apocalypse, and, if I am right, the chapter that has been most misunderstood, that I begin with it. And yet it is not only because it has been misunderstood that I do so, but because a right interpretation of this chapter is of vital importance, if we are to understand the main significance and the right sequence of thought in the next four chapters. To a certain extent this chapter contains the key to the orderly development of thought in the immediate chapters that follow in the Apocalypse. Naturally I cannot, in the course of two lectures, pretend to discuss all the difficulties that emerge in these three chapters, but I hope to remove the chief difficulties that stand in the way of our apprehending the writer's object and the orderly development of his thought in these chapters.

*Contents of Chapter vii.*

With this explanation I will now proceed to my task. The closing words of chap. vi., "The great day of his wrath is come, and who can abide it?" lead us to expect immediately the opening of the seventh Seal, and therewith the advent of the day of wrath. Instead of this, however, we have a peaceful interlude. The march of events is checked, the four angels of destruction are bidden to stay their hand until



the faithful should be sealed. The 144,000 Israelites are then sealed in vii. 4-8, and thereon follows, in the next nine verses, a vision of the martyrs in heaven. This vision is proleptic: that is, it is not what already exists in heaven that the Seer beholds, but what will exist presently, or at the end of the world. Nothing in the closing chapters of the Apocalypse surpasses in beauty and sublimity this blessed consummation of the martyrs, who come forth from the last great persecution which is about to fall upon the world.

In this chapter, then, we have two visions, and in them two main themes: one, the safeguarding of the true Israel; the other, the final blessedness of those who are to be martyred in the coming persecution.

*Many critics assign vii. 1-8 and vii. 9-17  
to different authors.*

The real crux of this chapter is the significance and object of this sealing; but we must first deal with the chapter as a whole, since, owing to the diverse character of the two visions, its integrity has been denied by many critics. Owing to the apparently Jewish, or Jewish-Christian, character of the vision of the sealing of the 144,000 Israelites in vii. 1-8, and the universalistic character of the second vision,

vii. 9-17, which embraces the faithful from all mankind: that is, owing to the apparent particularism of the first section, and the unlimited universalism of the second, most critics have decided against the unity of the chapter. Thus Spitta assigns vii. 1-8 to a Jewish Apocalypse, and makes vii. 9-17 the immediate sequel of i.-vi. On the other hand, Völter in his final work on the subject, Vischer, Pfeiderer (1st ed.), Schmidt, regard vii. 9-17 as an interpolation in what was originally a Jewish-Christian or a Jewish work. Others again seek to reconstruct the original of this chapter by making certain excisions. Thus Erbes removes vii. 4-8, 13-17 as additions from a Jewish source; while Weyland removes certain phrases in vii. 9, 10, 14, 17; and Rauch deletes vii. 13, 14 wholly, as well as certain phrases in vii. 9, 10 as additions of a Christian writer.

*But the relative unity of the chapter is to be maintained, and the two sections of the chapter are to be taken as referring to the same body of Christians, only under different conditions.*

But a more excellent way of dealing with the text is taken by Weizsäcker, Sabatier, Schoen, Holtzmann, Bousset, Wellhausen, Porter, Moffatt, who maintain the *relative*

*unity* of this chapter, and regard vii. 1-8 either as the work of our author, or as incorporated by him in the text, and adapted thereto. Sabatier, Holtzmann, Hirscht, and Bousset interpret the chapter as referring to two different classes: vii. 1-8 as referring to Jewish, and vii. 9-17 to Gentile Christians; while Reuss, Bovon, Schoen, Beyschlag, Porter, Wellhausen, and Moffatt interpret the two passages as describing the same body under different conditions. My own studies have led me independently and on different grounds to somewhat the same conclusion. Thus, though I shall be compelled to differ with all interpreters for the last 1600 years as to the significance of the sealing, I am glad to find myself in agreement with such a large body of scholars of the first rank, in holding that the 144,000 that were sealed in vii. 4-8, and the blessed company who stand clothed in white raiment before the throne of God, are one and the same, only under different conditions.

*vii. 9-17 is from the hand of our  
Apocalypticist.*

We must now proceed to discuss these questions in detail, and first of all the relation of vii. 9-17 to the rest of the Apocalypse. Now

an examination of the facts proves that this section is from the hand of our Apocalyptist. For (*a*) it proclaims the absolute universalism of Christianity, as does the entire Apocalypse so far as it comes from his hand; (*b*) in the next place, its diction is clearly his. In these nine verses the forms of diction are characteristic of our Apocalyptist: and in most of the verses there is not only one such form, but many. Let us take one verse as an example. Thus in vii. 9 we have the verse opening with the characteristic clause, *μετὰ ταῦτα εἶδον καὶ ἰδοῦ*; next, the phrase *ὄχλος πολὺς*, found in xix. 1, 6 in the same connection. Next, *ἔθνη καὶ φυλῶν καὶ λαῶν καὶ γλωσσῶν*, "nation and tribes and peoples and languages," which is found six times elsewhere. Next, *ἐνώπιον τοῦ θρόνου*, "before the throne," a frequent phrase in our Apocalypse; and the fuller form *ἐνώπιον τοῦ θρόνου καὶ ἐνώπιον τοῦ ἀρνίου* recurs almost exactly in xxii. 1, 3; and *περιβεβλημένους στολὰς λευκάς* in vii. 9 (cf. vii. 13) is found in iii. 5, 18, iv. 4.

It is clear that every phrase of this verse comes from the hand of our Apocalyptist. Now I have been applying the same rigorous examination to every verse, and every clause, and every phrase in the Apocalypse, and the result of this examination furnishes irrefragable

proof that the main bulk of the book is from the hand of one and the same author. This does, however, not exclude the possibility that here and there he has used sources, Hebrew and Greek: that he has translated the former, and in a few cases has taken over the latter as they stand: or that he has adapted to fresh contexts earlier visions of his own, which in their original contexts had a somewhat different meaning.

*The Apocalypse consists of a whole body of visions experienced at different times and committed apparently on each occasion to writing.*

Now, whilst I am touching on this question of the relative unity of the book as a whole, it would not be unfitting to emphasise the somewhat obvious fact that the Apocalypse cannot be regarded as the outcome of a single vision committed subsequently to writing. But having done so we must go further: not only were there many visions, but considerable intervals of time must have elapsed between them. A few were witnessed as early as 67 A.D., but the main body of the visions in all probability belong to the period 92 and 95 A.D. Another point of importance in this connection is, that the Seer was apparently



accustomed to commit his vision to writing immediately after its occurrence. Indeed, in these visions he frequently receives the command, "write down what thou hast seen," as in i. 11, 19, xiv. 13, xix. 9, xxi. 5. The Letters to the Seven Churches are dictated to him in the vision. On another occasion in x. 4, when the seven thunders utter their voices, the Seer at once prepared to write down what they said; but a voice from heaven forbade him, saying: "Seal up the utterances of the seven thunders, and do not write them" (x. 4). This last statement points to an interesting conclusion: in some of the visions the Seer was not in a trance, but in a conscious condition. This fact opens up important problems of vision, but we cannot deal with them here.

To return. From an examination of the diction of vii. 9-17 we are obliged to conclude that this section is from the hand of our Apocalypticist.

*vii. 1-8 is derived, so far as the form goes,  
from our Apocalypticist.*

Let us now turn to vii. 1-8 and discover, if we may, its origin. Now we find on examination that, so far as the diction is concerned, this section also comes from the hand of our Apocalypticist. Here we discern the importance

of the linguistic evidence. These few verses exhibit clearly the style of our author, as most of the phraseology is his, and that also where it is most characteristic. Such evidence is conclusive against critics who would assign the section as it stands to quite a different author. But, though the *form* of the section is due to our author, we cannot say as much for the *subject-matter*. The subject-matter which deals with the four destructive winds and the sealing of the 144,000, is borrowed from Jewish sources.

*vii. 1-3 from a Jewish source.*

First, as to the four winds. The letting loose by the four angels of these destructive winds was, as the text implies, to take place after the sealing of the faithful was accomplished, or at all events shortly before the end. And yet these four angels are not again referred to directly in the Apocalypse. Hence we conclude, as many critics have already done, that our author has here used, as frequently, an older tradition. That such a tradition existed in various forms can be conclusively proved. I will quote two parallel situations to that in our text. In our text we are told that a *pause* in the judgments is commanded in order that during the pause the faithful may be

sealed. Similarly in 1 Enoch a like pause takes place before the Deluge, for the preservation of Noah and his family. Thus in lxvi. 1, 2 it is written: "And after that he showed me the angels of punishment, who are prepared to come and let loose all the powers of the waters that are beneath in the earth, in order to bring judgment and destruction on all who [abide and] dwell on the earth. And the Lord of spirits gave commandment to the angels who were going forth, that they should not cause the waters to rise, but should hold them in check; for these angels are over the powers of the waters." Now from the opening verses of lxvii. we see that the object of this pause is to give time for the building of the ark—in other words, the pause in judgment was ordered with a view to a preservation of the faithful in the ancient world, just as here it is ordered with a view to the sealing of the faithful at the end of the world. Another remarkable parallel is to be found in 2 Bar. vi. 4 sqq.: "And I beheld, and, lo! four angels standing at the four corners of the city, each of them holding a torch of fire in his hands. And another angel descended from heaven, and said unto them: Hold your torches, and do not light them till I tell you." Here we have four angels ready to destroy

Jerusalem, and a fifth angel bidding them to pause, and not to destroy it till the sacred vessels were removed.

As regards the four destroying winds themselves, we can find traces of this conception from early in the second century B.C. to the second century A.D. Thus all the elements in vii. 1-3 can be explained from already existing tradition. Now, taking these facts into consideration together with the fact that the four winds in our text are not again referred to *directly*, we may reasonably conclude that our author has made use of an existing tradition to serve his purpose. Now, if we ask what this purpose was, the answer clearly is: the episode described in vii. 1-3 is introduced because a new order of plagues is about to ensue, and a pause must be made to secure the faithful against these plagues. In the verses that follow we learn that the faithful are secured by sealing them with the signet of God.

*vii. 4-8 derived originally from a Jewish source.*

We now pass to vii. 4-8. This section, which deals with the sealing of the 144,000, was not originally from the hand of our author, but was drawn by him from a Jewish or Jewish-

Christian source. If you ask on what ground this statement is based, the answer is: Since the tribes are definitely mentioned one by one, and the number sealed in each tribe is definitely fixed, the twelve tribes can only have meant the *literal* Israel in the original tradition. The Jewish origin of the tradition is further attested by the fact that the tribe of Dan is omitted. Dan was specially connected with the Antichrist in pre-Christian-Jewish tradition. But there is another point of interest in this list. Judah is put first, and not Levi. This is due to our author, or to a Christian recast of the passage. After the return from the captivity, Levi gradually acquired the first place. This we see clearly in the Testaments of the XII Patriarchs. Levi always takes precedence of Judah in this work, except in the Christian interpolations, where the order is not Levi, Judah, but Judah, Levi, because of our Lord's descent from Judah.

We conclude, therefore, that vii. 1-3 and vii. 4-8 go back to Jewish sources, but have been recast by our author and given a new significance.

*Four irregularities in the list of the Twelve Tribes and their explanation.*

But before we attempt to determine the new



significance attached to this section by our author, I must draw your attention to some irregularities in the list of the tribes. As you will see, if you consult the list, the tribes are mentioned in the following order:—Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin. In this list there are four irregularities. (a) Judah is placed first. (b) Dan is omitted. (c) Manasseh is given, though Manasseh is included already in Joseph, which follows. (d) The rest of the tribes are enumerated in an irregular order.

Judah is clearly mentioned first because from him is sprung the Messiah. This is a mark of Christian influence. (d) Before we discuss the difficulties in (b) and (c) we must examine that under (d), since if this can be solved the rest will be easier.

Now the present order of the tribes cannot be explained by any such irrelevancy as that of Grotius: "No order is observed, because all are equal in Christ." The text is unintelligible as it stands, and it is unintelligible because it is dislocated. This dislocation Dr. Buchanan Gray (*Encyc. Bib.* iv. 52 sq.) has recognised as due to an accidental transposition of vers. 7, 8, which originally stood before the last clause in vii. 5. By restoring these verses before the last clause

of ver. 5, sanity is restored to the text, and the order of the Tribes becomes intelligible and illuminating. Thus the six sons of Leah, the first wife, come first—Judah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun; next, the two sons of Rachel, the second wife, come second—Joseph and Benjamin; next, the two sons of Leah's handmaid—Gad and Asher; and, finally, we should have the two sons of Rachel's handmaid—Naphtali and Dan, but for certain reasons into which we shall now inquire we have Naphtali and Manasseh instead.

We have now to discover why Dan was omitted from this list and Manasseh inserted in his stead. Manasseh is obviously *de trop* here, since Manasseh is included in the tribe of Joseph; and Joseph is undoubtedly original, since the list obviously aims at giving the sons of Rachel, as it has given the sons of Leah, and not two of Rachel's sons and one grandson, as it does in its present form. Manifestly grandsons have no *locus standi* in this list. Here Manasseh has been substituted for Dan—the missing son of Rachel's handmaid. This substitution has made the list illogical. We have therefore to inquire, (*b*) Why was Dan omitted, and by whom?

Many explanations have been offered by modern scholars, but the true explanation as

well as the most ancient is that propounded by Irenæus. According to Irenæus, Dan was omitted because the Antichrist was to spring from Dan. The same statement appears in Hippolytus, and later in Andreas. That this tradition is pre-Christian and Jewish, I have shown in the notes to the Test. of Dan v. 6, 7, in my edition of the Testaments of the XII Patriarchs. Further, in a work on *The Antichrist Legend*, 171 sq., Bousset has proved at length that this interpretation of our text was that which was generally accepted in the Early Christian Church; for in addition to Irenæus and Hippolytus, it was supported by Eucharius, Augustine, Jacob of Edessa, Theodoret, Arethas, Bede. This interpretation is accepted by Holtzmann, Johannes Weiss, Selwyn, Moffatt and others.

(e) Now that we have seen why and by whom Dan was omitted, it becomes easier to explain the inclusion of Manasseh among the twelve sons of Jacob. The gap in the twelve, caused by the omission of Dan, had to be filled up somehow, although it could not be logically. The original Jewish author of the section therefore fell back on the grandsons of Jacob, and the only grandsons of Jacob that gave a name to a tribe were Ephraim and Manasseh. He adopted Manasseh in preference to Ephraim—

possibly on the ground that Ephraim was frequently used in the prophets to designate the ten tribes of northern Israel from the time of Isaiah onwards. It is so used in Sirach. The irregularities of this list are thus, I think, satisfactorily explained—the placing of Judah first, the omission of Dan, the inclusion of Manasseh, and, finally, the unintelligible order of the rest, as owing to an accidental transposition of the text.

Having now recognised the extraordinary irregularities in the list of the Twelve Tribes, as well as the fact that vii. 1–3 and viii. 4–8 go back to Jewish sources, we have now to determine the new significance which these two sections have acquired by being recast and incorporated in a Christian work.

*What is the meaning of the Sealing?*

What, then, is the new significance that our author gives to the sealing of the 144,000? This is really one of the most important questions in the Apocalypse, if we are to understand it aright.

*Danger of being misled by Old  
Testament parallels.*

Nearly every commentator has given one and the same interpretation to this passage. The

general accord of scholars in this interpretation is due to the influence of Old Testament parallels. Now the Old Testament is a good guide in the interpretation of the New Testament, but its guidance can be accepted safely only with limitations. Let me give one of the many instances that might be cited, wherein the same phrase occurs in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, and yet has assumed quite a new meaning in the latter. The Book of Life in the Old Testament, which is referred to in Exod. xxxii. 32, where Moses prays on behalf of sinful Israel: "If thou wilt not forgive them their sin, blot me, I pray thee, out of the book which thou hast written." This book is again referred to in Ps. lxxix. 28. It was the register of the citizens of the theocratic community. To have one's name written in the Book of Life in the Old Testament, implied the privilege of participating in the temporal blessings of the Theocracy, as in Isa. iv. 3, Ezek. xliii. 9; while to be blotted out of this Book, Exod. xxxii. 32, Ps. lxxix. 28, meant exclusion from these blessings. Now in the Old Testament, that is, in the Prophets, the Law, and the Wisdom literature, this expression was absolutely limited to this world; but in Dan. xii. 1 it is transformed through the influence of the new conception of the Kingdom, and distinctly refers



to citizenship in a spiritual Kingdom, to an immortality of blessedness.

This single example will show how carefully we are to guard against assuming that the same words or phrases, in the Old Testament and New Testament, must necessarily have the same meaning. On the contrary, we may assume that all Old Testament conceptions which were capable of spiritual development have changed their meaning more or less, either in the course of the two centuries preceding the Christian era, or especially by their adoption into the sphere of Christian thought.

Now let us return to the question immediately before us.

*According to all interpreters, except Düsterdieck, up to the present day, the object of the sealing was to secure against physical evil, as in the Old Testament and Judaism.*

What is the meaning of the sealing of the faithful in its present context? The practically universal reply of commentators is that (*a*) it means *preservation from physical evil*. Now I quite concede that in this tradition *in its Jewish form* this was the meaning, and in this connection appeal is rightly made to Exod. xii. 7, 13, 22, where all those who had sprinkled

the posts and lintels of their houses were to be saved from the destroying angel. The same meaning attaches to Ezek. ix. 3-11, where the six destroying angels are to destroy old man, young man, and maiden, little children and women—in fact, every one who had not the mark of God on his forehead. This Judaistic conception of *preservation from physical evil* is present also in the little Jewish Apocalypse in the Gospels—Mark xiii. 17-20, and the parallels in Matthew and Luke. That it was a current Jewish expectation we see in part from this interpolated Jewish Apocalypse. But if any one were disposed to cavil at this evidence, we can refer him to irrefragable proof in the Psalms of Solomon xv. 8-10, which were written about the middle of the first century B.C. From this Psalm we learn that “the sign of the Lord is to be upon the righteous for their salvation” (τὸ σημεῖον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ δικαίους εἰς σωτηρίαν), and the nature of this salvation is defined by the words that follow: for “famine and the sword and pestilence were to be far from the righteous” (λιμὸς καὶ ῥομφαία καὶ θάνατος μακρὰν ἀπὸ δικαίων).

Now I ask your close attention here, and pray you to observe the contrast between the expectation in our text and in this Psalm. In the Psalm the sign is placed on the brows of

the righteous to secure them from the eschatological woes that follow, namely, "famine, sword, and pestilence"; whereas in our text the sign is not placed on the brows of the faithful till after these very woes had taken place; for in vi. 8, after the opening of the fourth Seal, it is said: "There was given unto them authority to kill with the sword, and with famine, and with pestilence." The likeness of our context to, and yet its essential divergence from, this Psalm, appears further in xv. 6, 7, where the righteous are promised immunity from all the evils that are to be sent against the wicked in the last days. Furthermore, according to this Psalmist "the mark of destruction was to be set on the foreheads of the sinners" (*τὸ γὰρ σημεῖον τῆς ἀπωλείας ἐπὶ τοῦ μετώπου αὐτῶν*), and that accordingly "famine and the sword and pestilence would pursue and overtake the sinners," who would "perish in the day of the judgment of the Lord for ever."

If preservation from physical evil had been intended by our author, the sealing must have taken place before the first Seal, and not in the midst of the cosmic catastrophes of the sixth. Vitringa feels this so strongly, that he maintains that vii. 1-8 should be read before vi. 12-17; whilst Hengstenberg would place

this section before chap. vi. Holtzmann in the last edition says that the difficulty involved in the position of the sealing after the sixth Seal has never been explained.

*Düsterdieck's view that it is secured against spiritual apostasy.*

(b) At last the consciousness of the wrongness of the accepted interpretation came home to Düsterdieck and led him to propound the view that *it is not from physical evil, but from spiritual apostasy*, under the last and greatest trials that should befall the world, *that the sealing is designed to secure the faithful*. Now I confess that for a time I accepted this view. It belongs decidedly to a higher plane than the generally accepted interpretation: the securing against spiritual apostasy is unquestionably a nobler object for the sealing than preservation from physical evil. But, after I had written a considerable section of my Commentary, it came home to me in turn that Düsterdieck's interpretation would not meet the difficulty, and that the immediate object of the sealing was to be discovered in ix. 4, where the implication of the text is, that it is from demonic agencies that the sealed are to be secured, and not from physical evil in any form. This verse runs:

“And it was said unto them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only such men as have not the seal of God on their foreheads.”

This verse (ix. 4) suggests the right interpretation of the passage, which is as follows:

*The true secret of the sealing was to secure  
against demonic agencies.*

(c) In our text, therefore, the sealing of the faithful was designed to secure them from demonic agencies in the coming reign of the Antichrist. As this reign, so full of superhuman horrors, was about to begin, the sealing was carried out just then, and not earlier and not later. This sealing did not secure against social or cosmic evils, such as had already occurred and would again occur; nor did it secure against martyrdom, as we learn in xviii. 24: “And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that have been slain upon the earth,” but only against diabolic or demonic powers, as we see in ix. 4. The sealing provides the spiritual help that the faithful needed against the coming manifestation of Satanic wickedness linked with seemingly supreme power. With this help the weakest servant of God needed not to dread the mightiest



of his spiritual foes. The seal of God engraved on his brow marked him as God's property, and as such assured him of God's protection. But it did not in itself secure him against spiritual apostasy. Against this Christ warns the elect in Matt. xxiv. 24, and requires of them unfailing endurance (Mark xiii. 13, "he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved"). If the elect bear with patience the natural trials incident to their faithful discipleship of Christ, then He on His part will preserve them from the superhuman trials that are about to come on the whole world, as He promises to the Seer in iii. 10: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

The reasonableness of this view appears clearly from another standpoint. In the Old Testament, with its belief in a heathen school, the righteous could enjoy the divine protection only on this earth, if they were to enjoy it at all; and hence a long and happy life, fenced from physical ill, was the natural prerogative of the faithful. But in later times, and above all in the New Testament where the doctrine of a future life was fully and finally established, the centre of interest passed from things material

to things spiritual. Protection—not from physical ill and death, but from the demonic or Satanic enemies of the spirit—became the supreme aim of the faithful.

*The meaning attached to the sealing was early transferred to Christian baptism.*

The above interpretation has been lost to Christendom for 1600 years or thereabouts; but in the first three centuries we can find traces of its existence, and recognise the reason why the true interpretation of the sealing of the 144,000 was lost to the knowledge of the Church. The ideas, originally associated with the sealing in our text, passed over at a very early date to Christian baptism. How early this was we shall not attempt to determine here. In any case the ideas of the sealing in our text and baptism were associated in the second century A.D., and the way for this association was made easy by the fact that the term "seal," σφραγίς, was used of baptism. To baptism, of course, there is no allusion in our text; but baptism, according to early Christian beliefs, combined the two ideas here present: (1) it marked the baptized as God's (or Christ's) property; (2) it secured the baptized against demonic powers. Let me quote some passages from writings of the

second, third, and fourth centuries bearing on these points. In the Acts of Thomas xxvi. we read: "Give unto us the seal: for we have heard you say that God . . . recognises His own sheep by His own seal." Here baptism is the seal: it is also the outward mark distinguishing the believer from the unbeliever. Again, in the same work (p. 68, ed. Bonnet) baptism is clearly designated as a seal. "Give me the seal in Christ, and let me receive the laver of immortality." Other passages designating baptism as a seal are to be found in *2 Clement*, *The Acts of Paul*, and the *Martyrdom of Paul*. But from these passages which designate baptism as a seal of God, we shall now proceed to those which combine with the ideas of the sealing in baptism those of recognition and defence. In Clement of Alex., *Selections from the Prophets*, xii., we find: "When these things are fulfilled, then the seal follows, in order that what is holy may be preserved to God"; and in *Summaries from Theodotus*, "Sealed by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, he is not open to the attacks of any power"; in Cyril, *Catechetical Lectures*, i. 3 (fourth century), "There He bestows the wondrous seal of salvation, which demons tremble at and angels recognise, so that the former are

driven to flight and the latter cherish it as their own." At the beginning of this century we find that in Lactantius the entire meaning attached to sealing in our text is conveyed to baptism. Thus in the *Divine Institutions*, iv. 26, he speaks of "Christ being slain for the salvation of all who have written on their foreheads the sign of the blood—that is, the sign of the Cross"; and again (iv. 27), "the presence of Christians bearing this sign, when attending on their masters at the heathen sacrifice, puts to flight the gods of their masters, *i.e.* "the demons": and "since the demons can neither approach those on whom they have seen the heavenly mark, nor injure those whom the immortal sign as an impregnable wall protects, they harass them by men, and persecute them by the hands of others." Here the sign of the cross discharges the very same function as the seal affixed to the foreheads of the faithful in our text.

I have now shown that in the writings of the second, third, and fourth centuries are found survivals of the original and true interpretation of the sealing of the faithful in our text, though in these writings the significance of the sealing has already been transferred to baptism,—a transference that was made easy by the fact that from very

early Christian times baptism itself was described as "a sealing."

*Demonic dangers expected by Judaism in  
the last days.*

I think I have now proved, first, that the context itself requires the interpretation I have advanced, and secondly, that traces of this interpretation appear in the early centuries in connection with baptism. But the lines of evidence are not yet exhausted. I will now, in the third place, show that such demonic dangers were expected by Judaism in the last days. Thus in the Testament of Dan vi. 1-3, an inroad of demonic beings and a special strengthening of Israel against them by Michael is predicted; and in the first century A.D. we read in 2 Bar. xxvii. 9, that the final tribulation is to be marked by a multitude of portents and incursions of demons.

I have now given sufficient evidence in regard to what in my opinion is the only tenable interpretation of the sealing of the 144,000. Let me now resume the main points I have dealt with, and give this interpretation in its original meaning, and its true bearing for after times.



*The original and permanent significance  
of the sealing.*

The sealing is to secure the servants of God against the attacks of demonic powers coming into manifestation; for the powers of Satan are about to make their last struggle for the mastery of the world. In the past their attacks on man had been restricted to attacks on man's spiritual being, and had therefore been hidden, invisible, and mysterious; but now at the end of time they are to come forth from their mysterious background, and make open battle with God and His hosts for the possession of the earth and of mankind. The hidden mystery of wickedness, the secret source of all the haunting horrors and crimes and failures and sins of the past, was about to reveal itself—the Antichrist was to become incarnate and appear armed with all but almighty power. With such foes the faithful felt themselves wholly unfit to do battle. With the rage and hostility of man, with an invisible Satan and his invisible hosts, they could cope, but with their ghostly enemy and his myrmidons about to manifest themselves openly on earth they dared not engage. And so, just on the eve of this epiphany of Satan, God seals His servants on their fore-

heads to show that they are His own possession, and that no embodied or disembodied spirit of the wicked one can do them hurt. So much for the contemporary and original meaning of this passage. Now as to its deepest and permanent significance, the sealing means the outward manifestation of character. The hidden goodness of God's servants is at last blazoned outwardly, and the divine name that was written in secret day by day and year by year by God's Spirit on their hearts, is now engraved openly on their brows by the very signet-ring of the Living God. In the reign of Antichrist—in the last times, whether in this world or in some far distant one, goodness and evil, righteousness and sin, must come into their fullest manifestation and antagonism. Character must ultimately enter on the stage of finality. In this sense, too, we must interpret the words of St. Paul in Rom. viii. 19: "For the earnest longing of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God."

Having now dealt with the meaning of the sealing of the 144,000, we have next to ask who these 144,000 are, and likewise who are the great multitude out of every nation and tribe and people and tongue standing before God and the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and with palms in their hands. The answer

to this question is, in short, as follows. Chap. vii. refers not to all Christians, but only to the generation of believers contemporary with the author, first as militant on earth, vii. 1-8, and next as triumphant in heaven, vii. 9-17.

*vii. 1-8 refers only to the generation contemporary with the Apocalypticist.*

Now, first of all, it is clear that vii. 1-8 deals only with the generation of the faithful contemporary with the author; for *in the thought of the Seer it is only this generation* that has to endure the last and greatest tribulation. To preserve it against the superhuman evils about to burst upon the world, the progress of the plagues is stayed, and the faithful are secured against such as are of a demonic character, being sealed as God's own possession.

*vii. 9-17 refers to the Apocalypticist's own generation.*

It is no less clear that the great host in vii. 9-17 does not embrace the whole Church, but only those who had come out of the great tribulation. Not only on account of the definite article and the distinctive epithet *μεγάλης*, "great," but also on account of the whole vision and its relation to the rest of the book, it is wholly inadmissible to treat the

great tribulation quite generally as any and every tribulation that is incident to the life of faithful discipleship. The scribe of the Codex Alexandrinus was apparently conscious of this difficulty, and accordingly omitted the two articles and read "from great tribulation"; but all the other MSS are against this reading. It is the last and greatest tribulation that, according to our author, is to befall his own generation; and vii. 9-17 deals only with the great multitude which had gone, were going, or were to go through it faithfully.

The two classes, therefore, described in this chapter belong to the generation contemporary with the Apocalyptist. Of whom are they respectively composed, the 144,000 and the great multitude?

*Those sealed in vii. 4-8 are the spiritual  
Israel of the Apocalyptist's own time.*

Now as regards the 144,000, we shall find that in their present context they are not Christians belonging to Israel after the flesh, but to the spiritual Israel. In the original tradition we found that these 144,000 were Jews or Jewish-Christians. It is true that several able scholars, such as Düsterdieck, Holtzmann, Bousset and others, have maintained that in their present context they are

Jewish-Christians, and that they are in no case to be identified with the countless host in vii. 9-17; for in the one case we have a definite number, in the other an indefinite one; in the one a definite body of Jewish-Christians, in the other a multitude of all nations and peoples; in the one, the last great woe is surmounted and left behind, in the other it is still impending. Now the last objection is of no weight. The vision in vii. 9-17 is proleptic, anticipatory. It prophesies the outcome of the present life. The two visions presuppose different conditions—the one a phase of the Church militant, the other a phase of the Church triumphant. From this standpoint no objection can be maintained against the identity of the two groups under different conditions of time and place.

And other objections, when considered in the light of the thought which underlies the sealing of the faithful, lose forthwith any force they seemed to have. For since we have seen from iii. 10 that the great tribulation was about to come upon *the whole world*, and from vii. 4-8 that the essential danger connected with this tribulation was its demonic character, and that the sole object of the sealing was to preserve the faithful against demonic powers, it follows inevitably that the sealing must be



co-extensive with the peril, and must, therefore, embrace the entire Christian community—alike Jewish and Gentile. For the necessary grace of preservation from demonic influences cannot be accorded to the faithful descended from Israel according to the flesh, and withheld from the faithful descended from Israel according to the spirit, in a work of so universalistic import as the Apocalypse. In other words, the 144,000 belong not to the literal, but to the spiritual Israel, and are composed of all nations and peoples and languages.

From this standpoint the number 144,000 presents no difficulty. It is merely a symbolical and not a definite number. The real explanation of its appearance here is, that it is part of a tradition, taken over by our author, and a part to which he attaches no definite significance in its new context. The part of the tradition with which he is concerned is the sealing. This element is of overwhelming significance. It is the measure adopted by God to secure His servants against the manifestation and, for the time, victorious self-assertion of the Satanic world. The other elements of the tradition,—although taken into the text, *are of the slightest concern, or of none at all to our author.* This is frequently his practice. We have already

seen it in vii. 1-3, where the main idea is the *pause*, which is commanded in the succession of the plagues, in order to effect this sealing. As regards the four winds,—another element in the tradition,—our author does not refer to them again directly.

From what precedes, therefore, we conclude that the 144,000 belong to the spiritual Israel—in other words, to the Christian Church throughout the world, composed of Jew and Gentile; and, in the next place, that they represent only the present generation of believers.

*The great multitude in vii. 9-17 are identical with the 144,000.*

We have now to deal more fully with vii. 9-17. This section is not the work of a redactor, nor is it borrowed from an earlier and alien source; for every word, verse, and nearly every phrase is related in point of *diction and meaning* to the rest of the Apocalypse. Into a detailed proof of this statement I cannot enter here, but I think you may safely take it that this section is the work of our author.

Next, "the great multitude" in this section is identical with the 144,000 in vii. 4-8. We have already shown that "the great multitude" embraces not the Christians and the faithful

of all time, but only the Christian contemporaries of the Seer—the faithful of the present generation. Since the 144,000 refer to the same body, it is clear that “the great multitude” and the 144,000 are identical qualitatively and quantitatively.

*vii. 9–17 was originally a description of all the blessed after the final judgment.*

But this does not appear to have been the meaning of this vision in its original form. On good grounds we conclude that the vision was our author's own, but that originally it had another application. The great multitude represented the entire body of the blessed in heaven, after the final judgment. But it does not do so in its present context, but represents the martyrs of the last days serving God in heaven before the final judgment. I shall now attempt to prove this statement. *vii. 9–17* seems to have been a parallel in its original form to *xxi. 1–8*, and like it to have represented the entire body of the blessed after the final judgment. For, in the first place, the same phraseology is used of the blessed. Thus, whereas it is said that He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell over them, *vii. 15*, so in *xxi. 3* it is written that the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and He shall dwell with them

σκηνώσει in both cases); in vii. 17 it is said that God will "wipe away every tear from their eyes": the same statement reappears in xxi. 5; while in vii. 16 it is said that "they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat"; in xxi. 4, we read "neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more."

Secondly, there is no phrase in this section which in itself definitely limits the description to the martyrs. The phrases that demand such a limitation are, as we shall see, of an indirect though cogent character, and are due to our author's adaptation of an independent vision to a new context. Thirdly, the clause "which no man could number" can hardly have been written originally of a section of the righteous (*i.e.* the martyrs), but fittingly describes the countless hosts of all the blessed. Fourthly, if we disregard the phrases "the great tribulation" and "in the temple," the whole impression of the vision is that it deals with a final condition of the blessed in heaven, in which they render perfect and ceaseless service to God, and all the sorrow and pain of the earthly life are in the past, vii. 17.

Lastly, after the final judgment all the faithful were to be clothed in white.

On these grounds this section appears origin-

ally to have been a description of all the blessed after the final judgment; and so most scholars take this to be its meaning in its present context.

*But in its present context vii. 9-17 refers to the martyrs of the great tribulation.*

But, as we have already seen, this cannot be its meaning. The great multitude embraces not all the faithful, but only the faithful that issued victoriously from "the great tribulation." Next, if we take οἱ ἐρχόμενοι as an imperfect participle = "those who are coming" (not "those who have come"),<sup>1</sup> the great tribulation is still in progress, the end of the world is not yet come, the final judgment is yet to be held, and all who belong to the great multitude are martyrs; for all are already clothed in white (vi. 9). Thirdly, if we may use xxi. 22 ("I saw no temple therein") as an exponent of our author's views, we may infer that there will be no temple in the new heaven and new earth after the final judgment. Fourthly, in xxi. 4 the words "there shall be no more death" postulate a time after the final judgment. It is noteworthy that no such expression occurs in the

<sup>1</sup> If the text here is translated from the Hebrew, then it would = הַבָּאִים. This Hebrew phrase could = "those that have come," "those that are coming," or "those about to come."



present section. Fifthly, our interpretation receives support from the general theme of the book—the glorification of martyrdom, and especially from the place of this section in the book; for the time which it deals with forms the very eve of the last and greatest tribulation.

Hence we conclude that the vision in its present form refers to the martyrs of the great tribulation, though it exhibits survivals of ideas and statements which appear to show that originally it bore a very different meaning.

Now, before I leave this passage, I must refer to a very important question which arises in this chapter, and which, if rightly understood, has a great weight in reference to the problems already discussed.

*The white garments are the spiritual bodies which the martyrs receive before the final judgment.*

This question is—What is the meaning of “the white garments” in which the blessed are clothed?

On a full discussion of the meaning of these garments, I cannot enter here. These garments have already been referred to in iii. 5 and vi. 11. In the former, they are promised to the living Christians as a gift hereafter to be

received; in the latter, they are described as already given. Now, in the last passage the recipients of the white garments are the martyrs under the altar. The martyrs, moreover, receive these garments before the final judgment. All I can say now is, that these garments are the spiritual bodies which the faithful are to receive. According to our Apocalypse, only the martyrs receive their spiritual bodies before the judgment, just as it is only they who share in the first resurrection in order to enjoy the 1000 years' reign with Christ. That the white garments have this meaning I hope to prove elsewhere.

## CHAPTER V.

### SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS ALREADY ARRIVED AT IN CHAPTER VII.

BEFORE I enter on the interpretation of chaps. viii.-ix. it will be helpful to resume a few of the conclusions at which we have already arrived. Chap. vi., which we have not discussed, but the general meaning of which is obvious, deals with the opening of the first six seals. After the opening of each seal some woe or calamity followed, of a social or cosmic character; and whatever view we take as to the date of the events of the sixth Seal, there can be no question as to the fact that the first five seals refer to the past and immediate present. Passing now from chap. vi. to chap. vii., we found that a pause in the judgment is enjoined, and we learnt from the context itself as well as from the analogous passages in Apocalyptic literature, that this pause was commanded, in order that during it the faithful might be sealed, to secure them against woes or judgments of a new type that were impending.

Now the fact that this sealing had not taken place at an earlier period at once struck us as surprising. This fact made it clear that the object of the sealing was not to secure the faithful against physical evils, else it would have taken place not at the close of the sixth Seal, but before the first. The coming woes are, therefore, to be of a character quite distinct from those already past, since special measures have to be taken to secure the faithful against them. They were, as ix. 4 clearly shows, to be of a demonic character. The reign of Antichrist, with all its superhuman horrors, was about to begin, and so the sealing was carried out just then, and not earlier, and not later. This sealing did not secure against physical or social or cosmic evils, such as had already occurred, and would again occur; least of all did it secure against martyrdom: but it secured the faithful against the coming outward manifestation of demonic power, the epiphany of Satan and his kingdom. With this help the weakest servant of God need not dread the mightiest of his spiritual foes. The seal of God, engraven on his brow, marked him off as God's own property, and as such assured him of God's protection. The powers of Satan were about to make their last struggle for the mastery of the world. In the past their efforts

had been hidden, invisible, mysterious, but now, at the end of time, they are to issue forth from their mysterious background and make open battle with God and His hosts for the possession of earth and heaven.<sup>1</sup> The hidden mystery of wickedness was about to reveal itself, the Antichrist was in some sense to become incarnate, and appear armed with all but almighty power. Against such spiritual foes coming into manifestation, the faithful needed special help, and this was accorded to them, and that just on the eve of the epiphany of the Antichrist and Satan. Behind this vivid symbolism we found truths of deep and permanent significance. The sealing means the outward manifestation of character. The hidden goodness of God's servants is at last blazoned

<sup>1</sup> To the prophet of old as to the Apocalyptist the end—the culmination of evil and the final triumph of righteousness—was always in the immediate future. For ourselves, it is of small concern whether this end comes during the existence of our planet or many millenniums after its extinction. But it is an essential article of every true man's creed, that some day in the far off æons evil will be absolutely annihilated throughout the universe, and truth and love and purity will ultimately prevail for evermore. "Of that day and hour knoweth no man, not even the angels of heaven, nor yet the Son, but the Father only" (Matt. xxiv. 36). Moreover, in this cosmic strife all true men who, in the present and in the countless ages of the past, have already fought the good fight, will, with all the faithful of the coming ages, maintain with ever growing power this truceless warfare, till at last evil is swept over the bank of annihilation, and the universe is won for Christ and God.



outwardly, and the divine name, which has been written secretly by God's Spirit on their hearts, is now engraven openly on their brows by the very signet-ring of the Living God. In the last times, goodness and evil, righteousness and sin, come into the fullest manifestation and antagonism. Character must ultimately enter on the stage of finality.

We arrived at other important conclusions in our study of chap. vii., but with these we are not here immediately concerned. But if we would understand chaps. viii. and ix., we must not lose sight of the right meaning of the sealing in chap. vii.

*Chapter viii. and its meaning.*

Let us now study chap. viii. It begins with the opening of the seventh Seal, and the strange silence that ensued in heaven for the space of half an hour.

Into the significance of this silence in connection with the first five verses we are not yet in a position to penetrate. We must first pass on to section viii. 7-12, which deals with the first four trumpets. For the nature of the fresh plagues or woes we have already been prepared in vii. 4-8, where the faithful were sealed, in order to secure them from the coming demonic or Satanic attacks. After

this sealing the expectation is natural and inevitable that the next plagues to befall the inhabitants of the earth should be demonic.

*Following on vii. 4-8, the four Trumpets, viii. 7-12, appear foreign to the text.*

But, as the text stands, so far is this from being the case that we find a fresh series of colourless cosmic visitations following on the first four Trumpets, viii. 7-12, whereas the demonic plagues do not begin till the fifth Trumpet. Thus the first four Trumpets not only arrest the natural development of the book, but they also introduce an alien element at this stage. Something must be wrong here, and we are thus *a priori* disposed to doubt the originality of the first four Trumpets.

*Critical grounds for the rejection of viii. 7-12 as an interpolation.*

And when we come to examine these four Trumpets our doubts are transformed into convictions, and we discover that whereas the heptadic structure of the Seals and the Bowls is fundamental and original, the heptadic structure of the Trumpets is secondary and superinduced.

Let us read the description of the first four Trumpets in viii. 7-12.

7 "And the first sounded, and there followed

hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth : and the third part of the earth was burnt up, and the third part of the trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea : and the third part of the sea became blood ; 9 And there died the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, even they that had life ; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell from heaven a great star, burning as a torch, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of the waters ; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood, and the third part of the waters became wormwood ; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars ; that the third part of them should be darkened, and the day should not shine for the third part of it and the night in like manner.”

The heptadic structure, as we have already said, is secondary in the case of the Trumpets.

For (1) the first four Trumpets are conventional and monotonous. One-third of the chief things mentioned is destroyed in each, except in viii. 11, where, instead of the third of mankind—*τὸ τρίτον τῶν ἀνθρώπων*, which was clearly the original text—we have the strange phrase *πολλοὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων*,<sup>1</sup> where, according to our author's style, we should expect simply *πολλοὶ ἄνθρωποι*, or rather *ἄνθρωποι πολλοί*, since in the Apocalypse *πολύς* is always postpositive. But the reason for this change is not obscure. Since the invasion of the earth by the "twice ten thousand times ten thousand" demonic horsemen results in the destruction of one-third of mankind, ix. 18 (sixth Trumpet—second Woe), the same result cannot here be fittingly ascribed to the third Trumpet. Hence the original phrase "one-third of mankind" is here changed into "many men." (2) The first Trumpet conflicts with the sixth. For after the first Trumpet we read that "all green grass was burnt up" (*πᾶς χόρτος χλωρὸς κατεκάη*), and yet after the sixth Trumpet

<sup>1</sup> I cannot find this strange phrase elsewhere. The nearest parallel is Luke i. 16, *πολλοὺς τῶν υἱῶν Ἰσραήλ*. But here the genitive denotes a definite number: cf. Matt. iii. 7; Acts iv. 4, viii. 7, xiii. 43, xviii. 8, xix. 18, xxvi. 10. In the Fourth Gospel, *πολλοὶ τῶν* does not, as Abbott (*Johannine Grammar*,

is sounded it is presupposed to be uninjured; for the demonic locusts in ix. 4 are bidden not to "hurt the grass of the earth." (3) The first four Trumpets are described as plain objective events, but the visionary nature of the fifth and sixth Trumpets is clearly marked. Cf. ix. 1, "The fifth angel sounded, and I saw"; ix. 13, "the sixth angel sounded, and I heard." The seventh Trumpet is also of a visionary character (cf. xi. 19, xii. 1). (4) When compared with the Seals that precede and the Bowls that follow, the first four Trumpets are colourless and weak repetitions. Thus contrast the darkening of one-third of the stars, and the falling of two of them after the second, third, and fourth Trumpets, viii. 8, 10, 12, with the falling of all the stars to the earth, as unripe figs when shaken by the wind, after the sixth Seal, vi. 13; the darkening of one-third of the sun, viii. 12 (in the fourth Trumpet), with the intensification of his fires (so as "to scorch men with fire") after the fourth Bowl, xvi. 8 sq.; the change of one-third of the sea into blood, and the embittering of one-third of the rivers after the second and third Trum-

p. 89) points out, occur, but only a modified form of it with a verb or participle interposed. The nearest parallels to the phrase πολλοὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων are to be found in the LXX (1 Esd. viii. 17; 2 Macc. iv. 35, 42, vi. 24 (πολλοὶ τῶν νέων); 3 Macc. ii. 26.



pets, viii. 8-11, with the turning of the entire sea and rivers and springs into blood, and the destruction of every living thing in the sea, after the second and third bowls, xvi. 3-7. (5) The first four Trumpets exhibit a somewhat different diction and style. But the linguistic argument is not as decisive as elsewhere. There are two irregularities which belong to our author: the first—ὡς ὄρος μέγα = "the likeness of a great mountain"—belongs indeed to our author's style, but it is also a typical apocalyptic idiom, and is found elsewhere in 1 Enoch and the LXX; the second, however, is more characteristic of our author, *i.e.* the syntactical irregularity, τῶν κτισμάτων . . . τὰ ἔχοντα ψυχάς.

On the other hand, we find in viii. 8, *πυρὶ καίόμενον*; but elsewhere *πυρί* or a like noun follows this verb. Cf. xix. 20, xxi. 8. In viii. 7 we have *μεμιγμένα ἐν*, but in xv. 2 the *ἐν* is omitted. In viii. 12 we find *σκοτίζειν*, but in ix. 2 (cf. xvi. 10) *σκοτοῦν* is the verb used by our author. Finally, in viii. 1, 3-5, 13, the order is purely Semitic, the verb in all cases beginning the sentence except in viii. 3, where the subject precedes the verb. And yet even here the subject in Hebrew would rightly precede the verb, since it is emphatic. In viii. 7-12, on the other hand, the subject precedes the verb

thrice in viii. 7, twice in viii. 8, once in viii. 9, and once in viii. 10, twice in viii. 11, twice in viii. 12—that is, in all eleven times.

We have now found that viii. 7-12 is open to critical objections of every kind. The nature of the Sealing is wholly against it, which leads us to expect, not a conventional and colourless repetition of the physical plagues which occur elsewhere in the book, but plagues of a demonic character. And, further, from an examination of viii. 7-12 itself, we have found that the internal evidence is strongly against its authenticity. And, finally, we have recognised that, instead of carrying forward the development of the thought and action, these verses distinctly interfere with it, and take us back again to where we were at the beginning of chap. vi.

Accordingly, we cannot but regard them as inserted by a later editor of the book, who failed to apprehend the meaning of the Sealing, and the movement of the author's thought.

*Changes in the text introduced by the interpolator of viii. 7-12.*

Now that we have discovered the secondary character of viii. 7-12, we have next to study the changes made in the text by this interpolator in order to prepare the way for his interpolation.

First of all, viii. 2 is an intrusion. This verse reads, "And I saw the seven angels, which stand before God; and there were given unto them seven trumpets." You will observe, as J. Weiss has pointed out, that in this verse the mention of the seven angels, to whom the seven trumpets were given, comes as an interruption between the opening of the seventh Seal and the offering of the prayers of the saints, and yet the angels do not take any part in the action till viii. 6. This, it is true, would not in itself constitute a valid objection against the originality of viii. 2, and in its present position, but there are other and stronger objections not hitherto observed.

*Grounds for regarding viii. 2 as an intrusion in its present position and in its present form.*

For (1), viii. 2 in its present position is against the structure of the book, in analogous situations elsewhere. Thus it is to be noted that the *introduction* to the seventh trumpet (*i.e.* the third Woe), xi. 14, 15, is closed by thunderings and lightnings in xi. 19; and the introduction to the seventh Bowl, xvi. 17, by a series of like phenomena, xvi. 18; and that between the sounding of the seventh Trumpet and the thunderings, and the pouring forth of the seventh Bowl and the thunderings and

lightnings, there is no intrusive reference to any further fresh visitation. In like manner, we infer that between the opening of the seventh Seal and the outburst of thunderings and lightnings which follow in viii. 5, there was originally no intrusive reference to any fresh visitation, such as those of the Trumpets or Woes, as in viii. 2. (2) Again, viii. 2 not only comes as an interruption and conflicts with the structure of the book in analogous passages elsewhere, but it has also by its intrusion here debarred the recognition of the true meaning of the Solemn Silence for half an hour in heaven, viii. 1. The praises and thanksgivings of all the mighty hierarchies of heaven are hushed, in order that the prayers of the suffering saints on earth may be heard before the throne of God. When this interpolated verse is removed, the connection between ver. 1 and ver. 3—between the silence in heaven in ver. 1 and the presentation of the prayers of the faithful on the golden altar before God in vers. 3-5—at once springs to light. The praises and thanksgivings of the heavenly hosts are hushed, in order that the prayers of the suffering saints on earth may be heard before the throne of God.

The recovery of the meaning of the text is thus due to a critical examination of the text.

It was not until I had discovered that viii. 7-12 was an intrusion, and consequently viii. 2, that the true interpretation of the solemn silence in heaven burst upon me—an interpretation that appears to have been lost for 1800 years.<sup>1</sup>

(3) Further, immediately after the seventh Trumpet and the seventh Bowl, we hear what is done, not on earth, but in heaven: in the former instance, a song of thanksgiving, xi. 17; in the latter, a voice from the temple and throne, saying, "It is done," xvi. 17. In like manner, immediately after the opening of the seventh Seal, what took place in heaven should be recorded—*i.e.* the silence enjoined on all the heavenly hosts, an arrest of the praises and thanksgivings in heaven, viii. 1, in order that the prayers of all God's suffering servants on earth might be heard before the throne of God, viii. 3-5. In vii. 1-3 there was an arrest of the judgments on earth, until the faithful were sealed against

<sup>1</sup> This clause has proved an inscrutable enigma from the earliest times. The most recent expositors have not been more successful than the earlier. Swete says that this silence means "a temporary suspension of revelation." Bousset interprets it as expressing "an awful expectation of that which is to come." Holtzmann expands this idea, and writes that in contrast to the songs of praise that had continued from v. 9 to vii. 12 there followed a silence in heaven for the space of half an hour, caused by the awful breathless expectation of the things that were to come. Johannes Weiss and Porter express the same idea in other words.



the coming plagues: here there is a further and fresh pledge that the cause of the saints is one with that of God, and of the heavenly hosts. It is worth observing that an analogous idea is found in Judaism. Thus in Chagiga xii. 6, in the Talmud, we read that in the fifth heaven are companies of angels of service who sing praises by night, but are silent by day "because of the glories of Israel," *i.e.* that the praises of Israel may be heard in heaven. This passage supports our interpretation of the enigmatic "silence in heaven," but it is far less fine. The idea in our text is infinitely nobler. The needs of the weakest saints on earth concern God more than the psalmody of the highest orders of the heavenly hosts.

*Original form and position of viii. 2 in immediate connection with viii. 6, 12.*

viii. 2 is, then, an intrusion in its present position and in its present form. It probably stood immediately after viii. 5 and together with viii. 6 read as follows: "And I saw three angels, and to them were given three trumpets. And the three angels who had the three trumpets prepared to sound." Then, omitting viii. 7-12, we should at once proceed to viii. 13 and read as follows: "And I saw, and heard an eagle flying in the midst of heaven, saying

with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe to them that dwell on the earth because of the voices of the trumpet of the three angels which are about to sound."

*Criticism of viii. 13.*

In viii. 13, I wish you to observe that there is only one word that calls for excision. This is *λοιπῶν* = "the rest."

Now *λοιπός* is not used elsewhere in the Apocalypse as an epithet. Together with the article it forms a noun in eight passages throughout the Apocalypse, in chaps. ii.-xx. Moreover, its position before the noun is against the usage of the writer with regard to epithets in viii. 3-5, 13, ix. Epithets always follow after the noun in these two chapters—in sixteen cases. Thus *λοιπῶν* must be excised as an interpolation. It is to be observed here that the A.V. and the R.V. as well as some of the earlier English versions add without any authority the word "yet," and render "who are yet to sound." This addition is quite clearly owing to the fact that in the text as it stands four trumpets have already been mentioned. The added "yet" implies that trumpets have already sounded. But the Greek has no such implication: it is simply to be rendered "which are about to sound." None

have sounded as yet. So far, then, for the criticism of this chapter. Adopting the conclusions we have now arrived at, I will read chap. viii. as it appears to have stood originally.

*Chapter viii. in its original form.*

1 “And when he opened the seventh seal, there followed a silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 3 And an angel came and stood at the altar, with a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, that he should add it unto the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar that was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, on behalf of the prayers of the saints, went up from the hand of the angel before God. 5 And the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it upon the earth. And there followed thunders and voices, and lightnings and an earthquake.

2 And I saw three angels, and unto them were given three trumpets. 6 And the three angels who had the three trumpets prepared to sound. 13 And I saw, and I heard an eagle flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to them that dwell on the earth because of the voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are about to sound.”

*Who is the angel in viii. 3? Michael or the angel of peace? Michael probably in the original form of the chapter.*

This, then, is all that we can assign of chap. viii. to our author. But before we leave the above passage there are two questions that call for consideration: who is the angel? and what is the altar? We can dispatch the first subject quickly, if we eliminate the interpolations in this chapter. The angel was probably Michael, as will appear presently. But if we do not eliminate the interpolations, the identification of this angel is a matter of extreme difficulty; and yet it should not be so, seeing that it is only one of the greatest angels who could be entrusted with this function. Let us take the text as it stands, with the interpolations, and investigate this question. First of all, ver. 2 speaks of the seven angels who stand before the throne of God. Now, according to the universal tradition of Judaism and early Christianity, Michael was one of the foremost of the seven archangels. On the other hand, according to Jewish tradition generally, it was Michael that was the great intercessor on behalf of man. Thus in 1 Enoch lxxxix. 76, Michael prays on behalf of Israel; and like functions are presupposed in 1 Enoch lxviii.

3, 4. In this same work (xl. 9) he is called "the merciful and longsuffering." According to Rabbinic tradition, he offered sacrifices in heaven, even the souls of the righteous; and like views prevailed in many early Christian circles. Thus tradition points to the identification of this unnamed angel, who presents the prayers of all the saints, with Michael.

*But in the existing form of the text this angel, who cannot be Michael, may be the angel of peace.*

But in the present interpolated form of the text this cannot be right; for, since Michael is one of the seven angels mentioned in viii. 2, he cannot at the same time be identical with the other angel in viii. 3, who is so expressly distinguished from the great Seven. It is possible, therefore, that another tradition was here followed by the interpolator, and even in the original text. The "other angel" or "the angel" may be the angel of peace referred to in the Test. Dan vi. 5, whose office is "to strengthen Israel, that it fall not into the extremity of evil." In my notes to the Test. Levi v. 6, 7, I have shown that these verses most probably give a further description of this angel who "intercedeth for the nation of Israel, that they may not be smitten utterly," and



“for all the righteous.” Again, in the Test. Dan vi. 2 it is either Michael, or, as I am now inclined to believe, this angel of peace, who is described as the “mediator between God and man,” and who also “for the peace of Israel shall stand up against the kingdom of the enemy.” Thus apparently similar functions are ascribed to Michael and the angel of peace; for that they are not to be identified follows from 1 Enoch xl. 8, 9, where they are clearly distinguished. The nameless angel in Dan. x. 5-6, 12-14, 19-21, though generally identified with Gabriel, may be this angel of peace. He is an ally of Michael in helping Israel.

To sum up, then. The office of the angel of peace was pre-eminently that of an intercessor and mediator in Apocalyptic. He could, therefore, in a Christian Apocalypse be naturally assigned the duty of presenting the prayers of the faithful before God. This great angel is nameless in 1 Enoch, the Testaments of the XII Patriarchs, and, if I am right in my interpretation, also in Daniel. In our Apocalypse, too, he is nameless: he is simply designated ἄλλος ἄγγελος in the present form of the text, and was probably designated more simply εἰς ἄγγελος in its original form. We observe that though this angel is borrowed from Judaism, he is not in any sense described

as mediating between God and His servants. He simply presents the prayers of the faithful, censuring them as he presents them.

*Were there two altars in the heavenly temple?  
Difficulties inherent in such a conception.*

We now approach the next question, What is the altar at which the angel stands? We here enter on a very controverted subject. An altar in heaven is mentioned seven times in the Apocalypse. All commentators, so far as I am aware, assume the existence of two altars in the heavenly temple, and most commentators agree that the two altars—the altar of burnt-offering and the altar of incense—are referred to in our text. “And an angel came and stood at<sup>1</sup> the altar, with a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should add it unto the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense on behalf of the prayers of the saints went up from the hand of the angel before God. And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it upon the earth: and there followed thunders and voices, and lightnings, and an earthquake” (viii. 3–5).

<sup>1</sup> The text should be so translated, and not “over the altar”; cf. Amos ix. 1.

But if we assume a complete heavenly temple, with a holy place, a holy of holies, two altars, etc., we are forced to conclude either (1) with Züllig and Hengstenberg that the curtain of the holy of holies is closed in chap. iv. and viii. 3 sq. and not opened till xi. 19; or (2), with Hofmann, that the rest of the temple was removed in order to make possible the vision of God on His throne of Cherubin, and yet not that of the ark; or (3) with Ebrard, that in the vision in chap. iv. the whole scene was disclosed without the temple, and that later in vi. 9, viii. 3 sqq., a heavenly temple appeared on a terrace below the height on which the throne stood; or (4) with Bousset and Porter, that in chap. iv., vi. 7, viii. 3 sqq., the throne and the temple scenery are wholly irreconcilable.<sup>1</sup>

Now, unless I deceive myself, all these attempts at explanation proceed on a wrong hypothesis. We have here to do with the conceptions of the heavenly temple in *Apocalyptic*, and it is wholly unjustifiable to conclude that every characteristic part of the earthly temple has its prototype in the heavenly temple, as conceived in *Apocalyptic*. What we have now to do is to try and discover the conception of the heavenly temple that prevailed in *Apoca-*

<sup>1</sup> Yet this combination of the throne and temple scenery is as old as Isaiah's vision in Isa. vi.

lyptic Judaism. We have here entered on an interesting question in the history of religious development, which, however, we can on the present occasion only sketch in briefest outline.

*The Vision of Isaiah vi. relates most probably to the earthly temple, but the Test. Levi to the heavenly. This conception arose between 300 and 150 B.C.*

Our investigation starts with the vision of Isaiah in Isa. vi., since this passage has undoubtedly had a formative influence on subsequent developments, and was in the mind of the writer of the Apocalypse. I will quote the parts of this passage that concern us at present, vi. 1-8: "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his vesture filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another and said:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts,  
The whole earth is full of his glory.

And the foundations of the thresholds were moved at the voice of him that cried, and

the house began to fill with smoke. Then said I :

Woe is me! for I am undone ;  
 For a man of unclean lips am I,  
 And in the midst of a people of unclean lips I dwell :  
 For the King, the Lord of hosts, have mine eyes seen.

Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said :

Lo, this hath touched thy lips :  
 So thine iniquity shall depart,  
 And thy sin be forgiven.

And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying :

Whom shall I send,  
 And who will go for us ?”

As Duhm, Cheyne, Marti, Whitehouse, and Gray and other scholars have pointed out, the temple and the altar referred to are those in Jerusalem, as in the vision of Amos ix. 1 and Ezek. viii. 3, x. 4. That the idea of a heavenly temple and a heavenly altar existed in pre-exilic times there is as yet no proof, though such proof may some day be forthcoming. On the other hand, we must conclude from the Testament of Levi iii. 6, v. 1, xviii. 6, that in the second century B.C. the idea of a temple in heaven was current in certain circles,



and from the Apocalypse that it was a perfectly familiar idea to the Christian Church in the first century of our era. Moreover, it is clear from the diction that the authors of the Testaments and of the Apocalypse had the vision of Isa. vi. before them. Thus in the Testament Levi v. 1, the words, "the angel opened to me the gate of heaven, and I saw the holy temple, and upon a throne of glory the Most High," clearly attest the influence of Isaiah: "sitting upon a throne high and lifted up, and the train of his vesture filled the temple." Again we might compare the Testament Levi xviii. 6 :

"And the heavens shall be opened,  
 And from the temple of glory shall come upon him sancti-  
 fication  
 With the Father's voice as from Abraham to Isaac,"

with the voice from the temple in Isaiah. Next, with the description in Isaiah we might compare the temple in the Apocalypse being filled with smoke in xv. 8, and the voice crying from the temple in xvi. 1.

We have now seen that, on the one hand, in the eighth century B.C. there was at first, so far as we know, no idea of a heavenly temple and a heavenly altar, while by the second century B.C. this idea is firmly established. But, furthermore, since it was unknown to

Ezekiel, the Priest's Code and the Chronicler,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Buchanan Gray concludes that this particular development took place between 500 and 100 B.C., and probably very considerably nearer the latter than the earlier limit; and in it we may see one of the early fruits of that learned and speculative exegesis of the Old Testament which is represented first in the Apocalyptic literature and later in the various Haggadic products of the Rabbinical Schools."<sup>2</sup> This statement is undoubtedly good so far as it goes, but alike the cause of the development and the limits with which it actually arose can probably be determined more exactly. The determination of the probable limits of this development depends on the cause from which it sprung; and that this cause was the transference of the religious interest from earth to heaven, which set in with the rise of the belief in a blessed future life, is more than probable. Indeed, on the emergence of this doctrine, ideas in the Old Testament, which had a purely

<sup>1</sup> Gray appears to argue rightly that *tabnith* in Ezek. xliii. 10, Exod. xxv. 9, 40, 1 Chron. xxviii. 11-20, means not a model, but a building plan. This plan was, according to 1 Chron. xxviii. 19, received in writing by David from God, and passed on by David to Solomon, xxviii. 11, 12. These references taken in themselves do not postulate the belief in a heavenly temple, as has frequently been urged.

<sup>2</sup> *Expositor*, 1908, pp. 385-402 530-546, and in his Commentary on Isa. vi. 1-4.

earthly reference, were in many cases transformed and given a heavenly significance. In other words, they were reinterpreted from a higher and spiritual standpoint. This process of reinterpretation was for the most part unconscious.<sup>1</sup> On these grounds we may reasonably conclude that this development took place between 300 and 150 B.C.

If this principle is valid, we shall expect to find it already at work in the latest books of the Old Testament; and so, in fact, we do. I have already given one instance in the last lecture where it is pointed out that the book of life meant in the Old Testament simply a register of the citizens of the theocratic community; and to have one's name written in the book of life meant simply the right to share in the *temporal* blessings of the Theocracy, while to be blotted out of this book meant exclusion therefrom. In the Old Testament this expression was originally confined to *temporal* blessings only, but in Dan.

<sup>1</sup> Such a process of reinterpretation would naturally be fostered by the ideas underlying Exod. xxv. 9, 40, Num. viii. 4, according to which the earthly altar and tabernacle were made after the likeness of heavenly patterns. But these passages were not the cause of the reinterpretation just referred to: rather the reinterpretation of these passages was due to the larger spiritual movement which transferred the centre of interest from earth to heaven.

xii. I it is transformed through the writer's higher theology, and is distinctly conceived as referring to the blessed life of immortality.

*Were there two altars or only one in the  
heavenly temple?*

We have now dealt with the probable date of the emergence of the idea of a temple in heaven. That the idea of a heavenly altar arose about the same time may be reasonably concluded. But the problem is a complicated one. Were there two altars in this heavenly temple, or only one? To answer this question we must carry our research back into the Old Testament and forward into Christian and Gnostic literature.

First, as regards the Old Testament, we shall simply state here the conclusions arrived at by Old Testament critics, that there was no altar of incense in the Tabernacle, nor in the temples of Solomon<sup>1</sup> and Ezekiel. In other words, down to the fifth century there is no reference to this altar, and the mention of this altar is assigned to a late stratum in the Priestly Code.<sup>2</sup> Thus originally there was only one altar in the Jewish temple, and that

<sup>1</sup> Exod. xxx. 10 and 1 Kings vii. 48 are late interpolations.

<sup>2</sup> See *Encyc. Bibl.* i. 126 sq.; Hastings, *DB* ii. 467 sq., iv. 664 sq.

the altar of burnt-offering. But at some indeterminate date between the fifth century B.C. and 200 B.C.<sup>1</sup> the altar of incense was set up within the temple proper (*ναός*, *היכל*) and near the entrance to the holy of holies. There were thus in Herod's temple two altars—the altar of burnt-offering outside the porch of the temple, and the altar of incense inside the temple.

*Two altars in the heavenly temple are said by scholars to be referred to in the Apocalypse.*

Now it has hitherto been the universal opinion of scholars that as there were two altars in the earthly temple from the third or fourth century B.C. onward, so the heavenly temple was conceived by the Jews to have likewise two altars. Accordingly these two altars are said to be referred to in the Apocalypse.

*But both Christian and Jewish evidence is against this view.*

But, unless I am mistaken, this view appears to be wrong—at all events as regards Christian apocalyptic. First in *Hermas*, *Mand.* x. 3. 2, it is said: "The intercession of a sad man hath never power at any time to ascend to the altar

<sup>1</sup> See 1 Macc. i. 21, iv. 49 sq.



of God." Here clearly only one altar is presupposed; and that this altar is the altar of incense is to be inferred from the fact that in our Apocalypse (viii. 3) the prayers of the saints are offered upon the golden altar before the throne. This golden altar is, of course, recognised on all hands as the altar of incense. "The altar" is again mentioned in *Sim.* viii. 2. 5; Irenæus also (iv. 18. 6) attests the same view. He writes: "Thus (God) wishes us also to offer gifts at the altar frequently without intermission. There is therefore the<sup>1</sup> altar in heaven (for thither our prayers and oblations are directed), and the temple, as John in the Apocalypse (xi. 19) says: "And the Temple of God was opened, and the tabernacle" (xxi. 3); for "Behold the tabernacle of God in which he will dwell with men." Next we find the following statement in the Apocalypse of Paul, 44 (ed. Tischendorf): "And I saw the four and twenty elders lying on their faces, and I saw the altar and the throne." This

<sup>1</sup> Here only the Latin is preserved. The definite article, however, is to be supplied before the three nouns *altar* (= τὸ θυσιαστήριον), *temple* (= ὁ ναός), *tabernaculum* (= ἡ σκηνή). The Latin is: "Est ergo altare in cælis (illuc enim preces nostræ et oblationes diriguntur), et templum, quemadmodum Joannes in Apocalypsi ait: Et apertum est templum Dei; et tabernaculum: Ecce enim, inquit, tabernaculum Dei in quo habitabit cum hominibus."

altar is said to stand in the midst of the heavenly city (29). Thus Primitive Christianity, so far as the above quotations go, believed only in one altar in heaven; and that this altar was the altar of incense we learn from Irenæus, who writes that it is to this altar that our prayers and oblations are directed: moreover, we have additional confirmation in a Gnostic work of the second century, fragments of which are preserved by Clement of Alexandria (iii. 437), where it is stated that the soul "lays down its body near the altar of incense, near the ministering angels of the prayers that are offered."

Turning now to pre-Christian Judaism, we see that only one altar is implied in the Test. Levi iii. 6, where the archangels are described as "offering to the Lord . . . a reasonable and bloodless sacrifice." In later Judaism the same view appears to prevail. According to Aboth R. Nathan (second century A.D.), A. 26 (12), the souls of the righteous rest under the heavenly altar. Here there is only one altar presupposed. Now, if we may take with this statement another of the second century (R. Eleazar's), found in Shabbath, 152<sup>b</sup>, to the effect that the souls of the righteous are preserved under the throne of glory, we are justified in concluding that the altar referred to is close

to the throne of God, and therefore within the heavenly temple. In any case, there is only one altar in question. In three other passages in the Talmud, statements are made to the effect that in the fourth heaven are to be found "Jerusalem and the temple and a built altar, and Michael the great prince standing and offering an offering thereon" (Chag. 2<sup>b</sup>, Zebach. 62<sup>a</sup>, Menachoth (10<sup>a</sup>).

According to Christian literature of the second century A.D., and to Jewish literature of the same period and later, there was only one altar in heaven. Since this altar was in heaven, animal sacrifices could not be offered thereon, but only bloodless sacrifices and incense. Indeed, the nature of these sacrifices has, as we have seen, been defined in the Test. Levi iii. 6, "reasonable and bloodless" offerings, while later Judaism represents Michael as offering the souls of the departed righteous on this very altar.

*There was originally only one altar in the earthly temple—an altar of burnt-offering, and never more than one altar—the altar of incense—in the heavenly temple in Jewish-Christian Apocalyptic outside the Apocalypse.*

If the preceding account of the facts is trust-

worthy, we have now come to the interesting conclusion that whereas there stood *in the earthly temple* only one altar, the altar of burnt-offering, down to the fifth century B.C., *in the heavenly temple*, on the other hand, there stood only one altar, namely, the altar of incense, according to Jewish and Christian Apocalyptic from the second century B.C. onwards, outside the Apocalypse.

It is now our task to inquire if this view of the heavenly altar was held by the author of the Apocalypse. Now, first of all, the fact that Christian and Jew alike appear to have held the same views as to the one altar in the heavenly temple, proves of itself that this belief was current in the first century in Palestine before the breach of Christianity with Judaism. Further, though no altar is mentioned in the Test. Levi, which belongs to the second century B.C., the text implies the existence of only one altar.

We may therefore reasonably conclude that in certain religious circles in Palestine this conception of the heavenly altar was current from the second century B.C. onwards.

A corollary that follows naturally, though not inevitably, on this conclusion is that Jewish mystics would be inclined to interpret, as in fact they did, the great vision of Isa. vi. of the

heavenly temple.<sup>1</sup> Amongst these mystics was our Apocalyptist, who undeniably had Isa. vi. before his mind in writing of the heavenly temple. Now, since in Isa. vi. there is only one altar, we infer that in our Apocalyptist's view there was only one altar likewise—in the latter case the altar of incense.

It is worth observing in this connection that, according to the apocalyptic school of the higher theology, the altar of burnt-offering was of small account as compared with the altar of incense. This we infer from 2 Bar. vi. 7–10, according to which the earth was bidden by an angel before the fall of Jerusalem to open and receive certain sacred things belonging to the temple, and to preserve them till the advent of the Messianic Kingdom. It is remarkable that amongst these sacred things the altar of incense is mentioned, but not the altar of burnt-offering.

In another and wholly independent account in 2 Macc. ii. 4–8, in which Jeremiah is bidden by God to hide certain sacred things belonging to the temple, the altar of incense is again

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Gray, indeed (*Expositor*, 1908, p. 504), is of opinion that "Isaiah's vision, although it does not of itself refer to the heavenly temple and altar, was a main cause in producing the belief in them." According to the view I have set forth, the reinterpretation of Isaiah's vision would be only one example of a principle at work affecting the entire Old Testament.



mentioned, but not the altar of burnt-offering. This comparative depreciation of the altar of burnt-offering was, no doubt, due to the prophetic teaching, and to such Psalms as li. 15 sq.

- 15 "O Lord, open thou my lips ;  
 And my mouth shall show forth thy praise.  
 16 For thou delightest not in sacrifice [that I should give it];  
 Thou hast no pleasure in burnt-offering.  
 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit :  
 A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

*The Apocalypse does not, any more than Jewish and Christian Apocalyptic outside the Apocalypse, represent two altars as the heavenly temple.*

We have now seen that Apocalyptic literature in Judaism, both before and after the Christian era, and in Christianity on to the second and third centuries of this era, testifies to the existence of only one altar in heaven. We have observed other facts indirectly leading to the same conclusion. Armed with this knowledge, let us now approach the Apocalypse and see if the heavenly temple represented in it contains two altars, as all scholars have hitherto held.

Let us deal first of all with chaps. viii. and ix. Here there are universally assumed to be two

altars, one the altar of incense and the other the altar of burnt-offering,—a conclusion that is based on the hypothesis that the heavenly temple is in every respect the heavenly original after which the earthly temple was modelled, and also on the fact that the altars are described in different terms. We have already seen that the first reason is a groundless assumption in respect both to later Judaism and Primitive Christianity, which presuppose only one altar in the heavenly temple. As regards the second reason, it is quite true that the heavenly altar is designated in viii. 3*b* as “the altar before the throne” (*τὸ θυσιαστήριον τὸ ἐνώπιον τοῦ θρόνου*), and “the golden altar before God” (*τοῦ θυσιαστηρίου τοῦ χρυσοῦ τοῦ ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ*), in ix. 13. The altar so designated is universally admitted to be the altar of incense. This altar has already been presupposed, though not actually mentioned, in v. 8, where the 24 Elders are described as having harps and golden bowls full of incense. But because this altar is simply called “the altar” in viii. 3*a* and 5, it is declared that it must be the altar of burnt-offering. There is no force in this reason; for in Christian and Jewish Apocalyptic literature the heavenly altar is always designated as “the altar”; and this altar was, as we have seen, the altar of incense.

The heavenly altar is referred to in only three other passages, vi. 9, xiv. 18, xvi. 7. In xiv. 18 the evidence points to the altar within the heavenly temple, *i.e.* the altar conceived as an altar of incense; for in xiv. 15, 17, the two preceding angels are said to come forth from the temple (*ναός*) "in heaven," and in xiv. 18 it is stated that "another angel went forth from the altar," the implication being that this altar is within the temple. There remain only vi. 9 and xvi. 7. xvi. 7 ("I heard the altar saying, True and righteous are thy judgments)" refers naturally to the altar on which the prayers of the saints were censured and offered, and which is described in ix. 13 as ordering the infliction of judgment, just as in xvi. 7 it is represented as vindicating the righteousness of God's judgment.

*The altar in viii. is the altar of incense.*

Only one passage now remains which has been regarded as furnishing incontestable evidence to the existence of an altar of burnt-offering in the heavenly temple, as well as an altar of incense. But there is not the slightest necessity for this supposition. According to Shabbath, 152<sup>b</sup>, the souls of the righteous are said by R. Eleazar in the second cent. A.D. to be preserved underneath the throne of God;

and, according to another authority of the same period, to rest beneath the heavenly altar. Hence this altar is close to, or beneath, the throne of God, and must therefore be taken as the altar of incense, since it is within the heavenly temple, and is the only altar that is within the heavenly temple.

*This altar has apparently some characteristics belonging to the altar of burnt-offering.*

But this altar has the characteristics not only of the altar of incense: *i.e.* it is close to the throne of God, and within the heavenly temple, and the prayers of the faithful are offered thereon. It has also to some extent the characteristics of the earthly altar of burnt-offering; for the souls of the martyrs were conceived as being offered thereon. With this question I cannot deal further in these lectures, but enough has been done to prove that in the Apocalypse only one altar is conceived as standing in the heavenly temple, combining in itself the characteristics of the altar of incense and to some extent those of the altar of burnt-offering.

This idea of the offering of the souls of the martyrs on the heavenly altar is implied in our text, vi. 9 sqq., for the first time in literature. The genesis of this idea can hardly be earlier than the first cent. B.C.; for before that period

the souls of the faithful were conceived as going directly to Hades at death and not to heaven, as in vi. 11 of the Apocalypse; but towards the close of the first cent. B.C. the belief that the soul ascends forthwith to heaven, is found in Philo, and later in 4 Maccabees, and probably in Wisdom.

*The small interpolated Apocalypse, viii. 7-12.  
An attempt at its reconstruction.*

I will conclude this chapter by giving a reconstruction of the short apocalypse, viii. 7, 12, which has been interpolated in our text. It was originally written in stanzas of five lines each.

viii. 7 :

“ And the first angel sounded,  
And there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and  
they were cast upon the earth :  
And the third part of the earth was burnt up,  
And the third part of the trees was burnt up,  
And the third part of the green grass.”

viii. 8 :

“ And the second angel sounded,  
And the likeness of a great mountain burning with fire  
was cast into the sea :  
And the third of the sun became blood ;  
And there died the third part of the creatures<sup>1</sup> that were  
in the sea ;  
And the third part of the ships were destroyed.

---

<sup>1</sup> In the third line of this stanza I have omitted as a gloss “which had life.” It is a stupid gloss; for how could the creatures “die,” if they had not life to begin with?



## viii. 9 :

“And the third angel sounded,  
 And there fell from heaven a great star, burning as a  
 torch ;  
 And it fell upon the third part of the rivers and springs.”

## viii. 11 :

“And the third part of the waters became like wormwood ;  
 And the third part of mankind died of the waters.”

Here I have omitted (as a gloss), “And the name of the star is called Wormwood,” which is added after the third line of the stanza. It obviously interrupts the close connection between line 3, “And it fell upon the third part of the rivers and springs,” and the fifth line, “And the third part of the waters became wormwood.” The construction, moreover, does not occur again in the Apocalypse. And, finally, the excision of this line restores the stanza to its proper length. Further, as we have already concluded (p. 148), the original read not, “And many men died of the waters,” but, “And the third of mankind died of the waters,” which I have read accordingly.

We have now seen in the case of the first three Trumpets that the text is verse and not prose, and that in all probability each Trumpet consisted of a stanza of five lines.

This fact leads us to expect in the fourth Trumpet a stanza of five lines. Let us now

proceed to deal with this Trumpet. In the oldest MSS,  $\kappa$  A P and many cursives, it runs—

viii. 12 :

“ And the fourth angel sounded,  
 And the third of the sun was smitten,  
 And the third of the moon, and the third of the stars ;  
 So that the third of them was darkened,  
 And the day did not shine for a third of it, and the  
 night likewise.”

First of all, we remark how conventional this description is : how wholly wanting in imagination. A third again fails in every case. Again, how weak the cosmic catastrophes are, compared with those already described in vi. 12, where the entire sun is darkened and not the third part of it, as here ; where the whole moon becomes as blood, and where all the stars fall from heaven ; whereas here only a third of them is darkened. But this is not all. The last line is wholly unintelligible. There is no conceivable connection between the destruction of one-third of the light of the sun, and the shortening of the duration of the day by a third. Here the text is hopeless. If any meaning is to be extracted from this imbroglia, by “night” we are to understand “the moon and stars” which shine in the night. But this does not help matters.

Now in this verse we have followed the three oldest Uncials,  $\kappa$  A P and Vg., *i.e.* *καὶ ἡ ἡμέρα μὴ φάνη τὸ τρίτον αὐτῆς καὶ ἡ νύξ ὁμοίως*. But this text is not supported by the rest of the MSS and Versions. Thus Q and very many cursives give *καὶ τὸ τρίτον αὐτῆς μὴ φάνη ἡ ἡμέρα καὶ ἡ νύξ ὁμοίως*, "and that for the third of it should not shine the day, and the night likewise." Now we observe that there is here no difference in the actual words used, but there is a difference in the order. This may seem a small matter, but it is not so. Observe that the words "day and night" are here brought together, as also in the Coptic and Ethiopic Versions. This we shall find to have been the primitive order. This is the first step towards a solution of the difficulty. The next step is that a considerable body of cursives read *τὸ τρίτον αὐτῶν* instead of *τὸ τρίτον αὐτῆς*. Here we have made the second step in the recovery of the original text, as I shall presently show. But the remarkable feature about this text is that it cannot be translated, whereas the text in the Uncials can. Now it is hardly conceivable that scribes would deliberately change a translatable, though unmeaning, text into an untranslatable and likewise unmeaning text. Hence I conclude that *τὸ τρίτον αὐτῶν μὴ φάνη ἡ ἡμέρα* is in reality an older form than either

of the two former, though it is not attested by any Greek MSS, earlier than the tenth century.

It is, however, found in the Coptic Version. Since this Version is assigned by most scholars to the third or fourth century, this text appears to be attested independently in the fourth century.

Now let us return to the text again: *καὶ τὸ τρίτον αὐτῶν μὴ φάνη ἢ ἡμέρα καὶ ἢ νύξ ὁμοίως*. As we examine this the true meaning of the text flashes upon us. The subject of *φάνη* is *τὸ τρίτον αὐτῶν*, "and the third of them shone not," and not *ἢ ἡμέρα καὶ ἢ νύξ ὁμοίως*. *ἢ ἡμέρα καὶ ἢ νύξ ὁμοίως* might be an early corruption for *ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτὸς ὁμοίως* "by day and likewise by night," which is not very likely, though the Coptic Version attests this very reading, "and the third of them shone not by day, nor likewise by night." Here we must conclude either that the Coptic has preserved the original, or that it recovered the original by a happy conjecture. I incline to the latter view. The text is unintelligible in every Greek MS, and its unintelligibility is probably best explained by a mistranslation of the Semitic original of the Version, or owing to a corruption in the original. If the original was Hebrew, the Hebrew may have been *ולא תאיר שלישתם היום וכן גם הלילה*. Here

היום and הלילה could be rendered either as *ἡμέρας* —*νυκτός* or *ἡ ἡμέρα . . . ἡ νύξ*. In any case we should reconstruct the line as follows :

“And the third of them shone not by day nor by night  
likewise.”



## APPENDIX TO CHAPTER II.



### THE CRITICAL ANALYSES OF SOME OF THE CHIEF STUDENTS OF THE APOCALYPSE DOWN TO RECENT TIMES.

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Wherever the asterisk is attached to a verse it denotes a part of the verse; while *a*, *b*, *c*, etc., denote the first, second, or third clauses of the verse.

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GROTIUS, *Annotationes in Apocalypsin Joannis*, 1644.—According to Grotius the Apocalypse consisted of ten visions experienced at different times and in different places. The first three visions (i.—xi.) belong to the reign of Claudius, visions four and five (xii.—xiv.) before the fall of Jerusalem (?), visions six and seven (xv.—xviii.) to the reign of Vespasian, visions eight to ten (xix.—xxii.) to that of Domitian.

VÖLTER.—Völter's first work appeared in 1882, but since he has seriously modified the views in that work in his

three subsequent studies, only his latest views are here given in *Die Offenbarung Johannis*, 1904.

Apoc. of John Mark. <sup>1</sup> 60 A.D.	Apoc. of Cerin- thus. 70 A.D.	Editor in Trajan's Time. 114-115 A.D.	Revises in Hadrian's Time.
i. 4-6. iv. 1-v. 10. vi. 1-vii. 8. viii.-ix. xi. 14-19. xiv. 1-3, 6-7. xviii. 1-xix. 4. xiv. 14-20. xix. 5-10a.	x. 1-11. xvii. 1-18. xi. 1-13. xii. 1-16. xv. 5-6, 8. xvi. xix. 11-xxi. 8. xxi. 10-xxii. 6.	i. 7-8. v. 6b, 9-10*. v. 11-14. vii. 9-17. xi. 8*, 11*, 15*, 18*. xii. 11, 18-xiii. 18. xiv. 4-5, 9-12. xv. 1-4, 7. xvi. 2b (13), 19b. xvii. 6*, 14, 16, 17. Phrases in xix. 20, xx. 10 xxi. 14, 22-27. xxii. 1-2, 8-9.	i. 1-3, 9-iii. 22. xiv. 13. xvi. 15. xix. 10b. xxii. 7, 10- 20.

VISCHER, *Die Offenbarung Johannis*, 1886.—According to Vischer the groundwork of the Apocalypse is a Jewish work. This was revised by a Christian to whom the following additions are due:

i.-iii. v. 6*. v. 8 (a word). v. 9-14. vi. 1*. vi. 16*. vii. 9-17. ix. 11*. xi. 8b, c.	xi. 15*. xii. 11, 17 (a word). xiii. 8*. xiii. 9-10. xiv. 1-5. xiv. 10*. xiv. 12-13. xv. 3*. xvi. 15, 16*. xvii. 6*.	xvii. 14. xviii. 20*. xix. 7*. xix. 9-10. xix. 11*. xix. 13b. xx. 4-5*, 6. xxi. 5b-8, 9*, 14b, 22*, 23*, 27*. xxii. 3*, 6-21.
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<sup>1</sup> See *Offenbarung Johannis*, pp. 51, 59, 61, 62, 70, 71, 98, 104-7, 145-7. Interpolations in individual verses of the Apoc. of John. Völter detects in iv. 1, v. 9, 10, vi. 16, xi. 8, 11, 15, 18, xiv. 1, xviii. 20; in the Apoc. of Cerinthus x. 6b, 7b. xi. 8. xvi. 2, 3, xvii. 1, xix. 20, xx. 4, 10, xxi. 9, xxii. 3.

SCHOEN, *L'Origine de l'Apocalypse de Saint Jean*, 1887.—According to this writer the main elements of the Apocalypse are Christian (see pp. 137–139).

Christian Apocalypse written under Domitian.	Christian Editor.	Jewish Sources.
i.–ix. xi. 14, 15. xiv. 1–8, 13–20. xv.–xvi. xix.–xx. xxi. 1–8. xxii. 6–21.	x. xii. 10–12, 18. xiii. 8–10. xiv. 9–12. xvi. 13–16. xvii. xviii. 20. xix. xx. 1–6, 7–15. xxi. 9–xxii. 5.	xi. 1–13. xii. xiii. xviii.

WEYLAND, *Omwerkings-en Compilatie-Hypothesen toegepast op de Apocalypse van Johannes*, 1888.—Weyland discovers two Jewish sources in the Apocalypse  $\aleph$  and  $\beth$ . These two sources were edited by a Christian, who added the first three chapters and a series of interpolations (see p. 176).<sup>1</sup>

$\aleph$ (Written under Titus.)	$\beth$ (Written under Nero.)	Christian Editor. <sup>1</sup>
i. 10, 12–17, 19. iv.–vi. vii. 1–8, 9–17. viii.–ix. xi. 14–18. xiv. 2–3. xiv. 14–20. xv. 5. xvi. 17b–20. xvii.–xix. 6. xxi. 9–27. xxii. 1–11, 14–15.	x. 1–xi. 13. xii. 1–10, 11–xiii. xiv. 6–7, 9–11. xv. 2–4. xvi. 13, 14. xix. 11–21. xx. xxi. 1–8.	i.–iii. iv. 5c. v. 6–14 (recast). vi. 16c. vii. 14c. ix. 18. x. 7. xi. 8b. xii. 11, 17c. xiv. 1, 4–5, 12–13. xv. 1, 6–8. xvi. 1–17a, 21. xvii. 14. xix. 7–10, 13b. xxi. 9a, 14b. xxii. 7a, 12–13, 16–21.

<sup>1</sup> Also words and phrases in vi. 1, vii. 9, 10, 17, ix. 15, x. 1, 11, xiii. 8, xv. 3, xvii. 6, xviii. 20, xx. 4, xxi. 27, xxii. 1, 3.

SPITTA, *Die Offenbarung des Johannes*, 1889.—According to Spitta there was a primitive Christian Apocalypse, U, written soon after 60 A.D. This was revised by a Christian editor R in the time of Trajan, who incorporated two Jewish Apocalypses, J<sup>1</sup> belonging to the time of Caligula, and J<sup>2</sup> to that of Pompey.

U.	J <sup>1</sup> .	J <sup>2</sup> .	R.
i. 4-6, 9-19.	viii. 1-8.	x. 1 <i>b</i> , 2 <i>a</i> , 8 <i>a</i> ,	i. 1-3.
ii. 1-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18- 25.	viii. 2-ix. 14, 15 <i>b</i> .	9 <i>b</i> , 10-11.	i. 5*.
iii. 1-4, 7-11, 14-20.	viii. 16-21, 15 <i>a</i> .	xi. 1-13, 15, 17, 18.	i. 7-8, 20.
iv.-vi.	x. 1 <i>a</i> , 2 <i>b</i> , 3, 5-7.	xiv. 14-20.	ii. 7, 11, 17, 26-29.
vii. 9-17.	xi. 15, 19.	xv. 2-6, 8.	iii. 5-6, 12-13, 21-22.
viii. 1.	xii.-xiii. 8.	xvi. 1-12, 17 <i>a</i> , 21.	iv. 1*.
xix. 9 <i>b</i> , 10.	xiii. 11-18.	xvii. 1-6 <i>a</i> .	v. 5*, 6*, 8*, 10*.
xxii. 8, 10- 13, 16 <i>a</i> , 17, 18 <i>a</i> , 20 <i>b</i> - 21.	xiv. 1-2 <i>a</i> , 4 <i>b</i> -7, 9, 10 <i>b</i> , 11 <i>a</i> .	xviii. 1-23.	vi. 16*.
	xvi. 13, 14, 17 <i>b</i> -20.	xix. 1-8.	vii. 9 <i>c</i> .
	xix. 11-21.	xxi. 9-xxii. 3 <i>a</i> , 15.	ix. 12, 14*, 15*.
	xx. 1-3, 8- 15.		x. 4, 5*, 7 <i>a</i> .
	xxi. 1, 5 <i>a</i> , 6 <i>a</i> .		xi. 14.
			xii. 6, 9*, 11, 13*, 17*.
			xiii. 3 <i>a</i> , 4 <i>b</i> , 5 <i>b</i> , 7 <i>a</i> , 8*, 9- 10, 14*, 17 <i>c</i> -18 <i>abc</i> .
			xiv. 2 <i>b</i> -4 <i>a</i> , 4 <i>b</i> *, 6*, 8, 10 <i>a</i> , 11 <i>a</i> , 11 <i>c</i> -13, 17.
			xv. 1, 2*, 3*, 5 <i>b</i> , 7.
			xvi. 1*, 2*, 10*, 15.
			xvii. 3*, 6 <i>a</i> , 7-18.
			xviii. 24.
			xix. 4, 6*, 7*, 8 <i>b</i> -9 <i>a</i> , 10*, 11 <i>d</i> -12 <i>a</i> , 13 <i>b</i> , 15, 21*.
			xx. 2*, 4-7, 12*.
			xxi. 2-4, 5 <i>b</i> , 6 <i>b</i> -8, 9*, 14*, 22*, 23*, 27 <i>b</i> .
			xxii. 1*, 3 <i>b</i> -7, 14, 16 <i>b</i> , 18 <i>b</i> -20 <i>a</i> .

ERBES, *Die Offenbarung Johannis*, 1891.—Erbes' theory is that of the Redaction Hypothesis. The groundwork consists of a Christian Apocalypse written in the year 62 A.D. With this Apocalypse another of the time of Caligula was incorporated, and finally about the year 80 it was finally revised and enlarged. See p. 184.

Caligula Apoc. 40 A.D.	Christian Apoc. 62 A.D.	Final Redaction. 80 A.D.
xii. 1-xiii. 18. xiv. 9b-12.	i. 4-19. ii. 1-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18-25. iii. 1-4, 7-11, 14-22. iv. 1-5, 10. v. 1-10 (11-14). vi. vii. 1-3, 9-12. viii. 1-11, 19. xiv. 1-7, 13-20. xv. 2*-4 (v. 11-14). xix. 5-9a. xx. 11-15. xxi. 1-4. xxii. 3-25.	i. 1-3, 20. ii. 7, 11, 17, 26-29. iii. 5-6, 12-13. vii. 4-8, 13-17. ix. 12. xi. 14. xiii. 3*, 12*, 14*. xiv. 4*, 8, 9a. xv. 1, 2*, 5-xix. 4. xix. 9b-xx. 10, 14*. xxi. 5-xxii. 2. (xxii. 18, 19?)

J. WEISS, *Die Offenbarung des Johannes*, 1908.—According to Weiss there was an original Johannine Apocalypse written probably before 70 A.D. This Apocalypse was re-edited in 95 A.D. by a writer who at the same time incorporated an anonymous Apocalypse written before 70 A.D.

Apocalypse of John.	Anonymous Apoc. Q.	Editor, 95 A.D.
i. 4-6, 9-15, 17. ii. 1-5, 8-10, 12-16. ii. 18-25. iii. 1-4, 7-11, 14-20. iv. 1-8 (with the exception of some phrases). v. 1-6a, 7-8, 11-14. vi. 1-8, 12-17. vii. 1-8 (H). viii. 1, 3-5a, 13-ix. 21. xi. 14. xii. 7-12. xiv. 1-7, 14-20. xx. 1-4a, 6-11. xxi. 1-4*. xxii. 3-5 (8-9).	x. 1-9. xi. 1-13. xii. 1-6, 13-17. xiii. 1-2a, 3-6. xv. 5, 8-xvi. 1. xvii. 1-8, 9b-13, 15-18. xviii. 1-19. xix. 11-21. xxi. 9-xxii. 2.	i. 1-3, 7-8, 16(?), 19(?)-20. ii. 6(?), 7, 10e-11, 17, 26-29. iii. 5-6, 12-13, 21-22. iv. 5b, 9-11. v. 6*, 8*. vi. 9-11. vii. 9-17 (J). viii. 2, 5b-12. x. 7*, 10-11. xi. 8*, 15. xii. 3*, 11. xiii. 2b, 7-10, 11-18 (J). xiv. 8-12. xv. 1-4, 6, 7. xvii. 9a, 14. xviii. 20. xix. 1-10. xx. 4b-5, 12b-15. xxi. 4*-8, 14. xxii. 6-7, 10-21.



I have not given the analyses of Bousset, Wellhausen, and Moffatt, which in the opinion of the present writer adopt other methods for dealing with the Apocalypse. With these scholars I hope to deal in my Commentary next year.

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